

Neutral Zone



US Approves Tough Rules for Internet providers

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Tom Wheeler gestures near the end of a hearing for a vote on Net Neutrality, Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015, at the FCC in Washington. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

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Senate panel votes to approve Lynch as attorney general



Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, left, accompanied by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015, before the committee voted to advance the nomination of Loretta Lynch to serve as the nation's next attorney general.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

EMMARIE HUETTEMAN

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WASHINGTON - The Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday approved Loretta E. Lynch to be the next attorney general, sending her nomination to the full Senate for what is likely to be a contentious vote.

The panel voted 12-8 to advance Lynch, President Barack Obama's pick to replace Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr., with all of the votes against her coming from Republicans. The full Senate will likely vote in the next week or two.

While praising Lynch's credentials, Republicans made it clear that their objections to her nomination hinged on her belief in the legality of the president's executive action on immigration, the same issue that has tied up the approval of funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

Several Republicans said they did not believe that she would be willing to stand up to the president if needed. Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., said that approving Lynch would amount to approving Obama's policies.

"A vote for this nominee, in my opinion, who favors and will defend this unconstitutional action, does provide support for the president's agenda, and I don't think

we should provide that," he said.

But Lynch needed just two Republican votes to proceed to consideration by the full Senate. She got three - Sens. Orrin G. Hatch of Utah, Jeff Flake of Arizona and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina voted in favor of her.

Hatch said he believed that Lynch would act more independently than Holder. He criticized his colleagues for opposing her based solely on some of her testimony before the committee and for dismissing her "substantial" career.

"I do not believe that that is the proper way to evaluate any nominee's fitness," he said.

Several senators criticized their colleagues, saying they had hashed out the immigration debate in an inappropriate forum.

"The place for this fight is in the courts," said Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y. Graham concurred, saying, "We can yell and scream all we like, but the courts are the right place for this to be resolved." He added, "I'm sorry the president has created this mess, but I'm not going to add to it."

As the U.S. attorney in Brooklyn, Lynch has already been confirmed by the Senate twice. But she is

expected to meet some resistance this time, with conservative Republicans like Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas opposing her because of her defense of Obama's immigration actions, and with others, like Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri, promising to reject all of Obama's nominees. Cruz on Thursday called Lynch "unsuitable" for the job, saying her confirmation would open up the possibility that Obama would take broader action on immigration and other policies.

"In this instance, Ms. Lynch has sat in this room and told the members of this committee what she intends to do," he said. "If those answers are not sufficient to vote against a nominee, I don't know what answers

will be."

But a change to the Senate rules orchestrated by Democrats in 2013 means that only a simple majority - not the previous threshold of 60 votes - is needed to stop a filibuster and confirm a nominee. With a handful of Republicans already expressing their support for Lynch, it seems likely that she will be confirmed.

The vote Thursday came a month after her confirmation hearings, which featured criticism not of Lynch but of Holder. Senators quizzed her about her stances on Holder's policies, such as his choice not to defend a federal ban on same-sex marriage; she coolly replied that she would make her own decisions. □



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US approves tough rules for internet providers



Michael Copps, special adviser for Common Cause's Media and Democracy Reform Initiative and former Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, speaks at the Net Neutrality rally in Washington, Feb. 26, 2015.

(Gabriella Demczuk/The New York Times)

ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Internet activists declared victory over big cable companies Thursday, after the U.S. Federal Communications Commission voted to impose the toughest rules yet on broadband Internet providers to prevent them from creating paid fast lanes and slowing or blocking web traffic.

The 3-2 vote ushered in a new era of government oversight for an industry that has seen relatively little. It represents the biggest regulatory shake-up to U.S. telecommunications providers in almost two decades. Net neutrality is the idea that websites or videos load at about the same speed. The new rules require that any company providing a broadband connection to a customer's home or phone must act in the "public interest" and refrain from using "unjust or unreasonable" business practices. The goal is to prevent providers from striking deals with content providers like Google, Netflix or Twitter to move their data faster.

Industry officials and congressional Republicans fought bitterly to stave off the new regulations, which they said constitutes dangerous overreach and would eventually raise costs for consumers. The broadband industry was expected to sue.

President Barack Obama, who had come out in favor of net neutrality late last year, portrayed the decision as a victory for democracy in the digital age. In an online letter, he thanked the millions who wrote to the FCC and spoke out on social media in support of the change.

"Today's FCC decision will protect innovation and create a level playing field for the next generation of entrepreneurs — and it wouldn't have happened without Americans like you," he wrote.

Verizon, a major U.S. broadband provider, saw it differently, using the Twitter hashtag #ThrowbackThurs-

day to draw attention to the FCC's reliance on 1934 legislation to regulate the Internet.

For years, providers mostly agreed not to pick winners and losers among Web traffic because they didn't want to encourage regulators to step in and because they said consumers demanded it. But that started to change around 2005, when YouTube came online and Netflix became increasingly popular. On-demand video began hogging bandwidth, and evidence surfaced that some providers were manipulating traffic without telling consumers.

By 2010, the FCC enacted open Internet rules, but the agency's legal approach was eventually struck down in the courts. The vote Thursday was intended by the FCC to erase any legal ambiguity by no longer classifying the Internet as an "information service" but a "telecommunications service" subject to Title II of the 1934 Communications Act.

That would dramatically expand regulators' power over the industry and hold broadband providers to the higher standard of operating in the public interest.

"Despite the cable industry's best efforts to undermine our cause, we secured an open Internet, free from gatekeepers and corporate monopolies. We have an Internet for the people," said David Segal, executive director of Demand Progress, a progressive Internet activism group. Republican lawmakers said they would push for legislation to reverse the action, although it was unlikely Obama would sign such a bill.

"Only action by Congress can fix the damage and uncertainty this FCC order has inflicted on the Internet," Republican Sen. John Thune, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, said in a statement. Complicating the issue is that not every broadband provider agrees on what should be done. □

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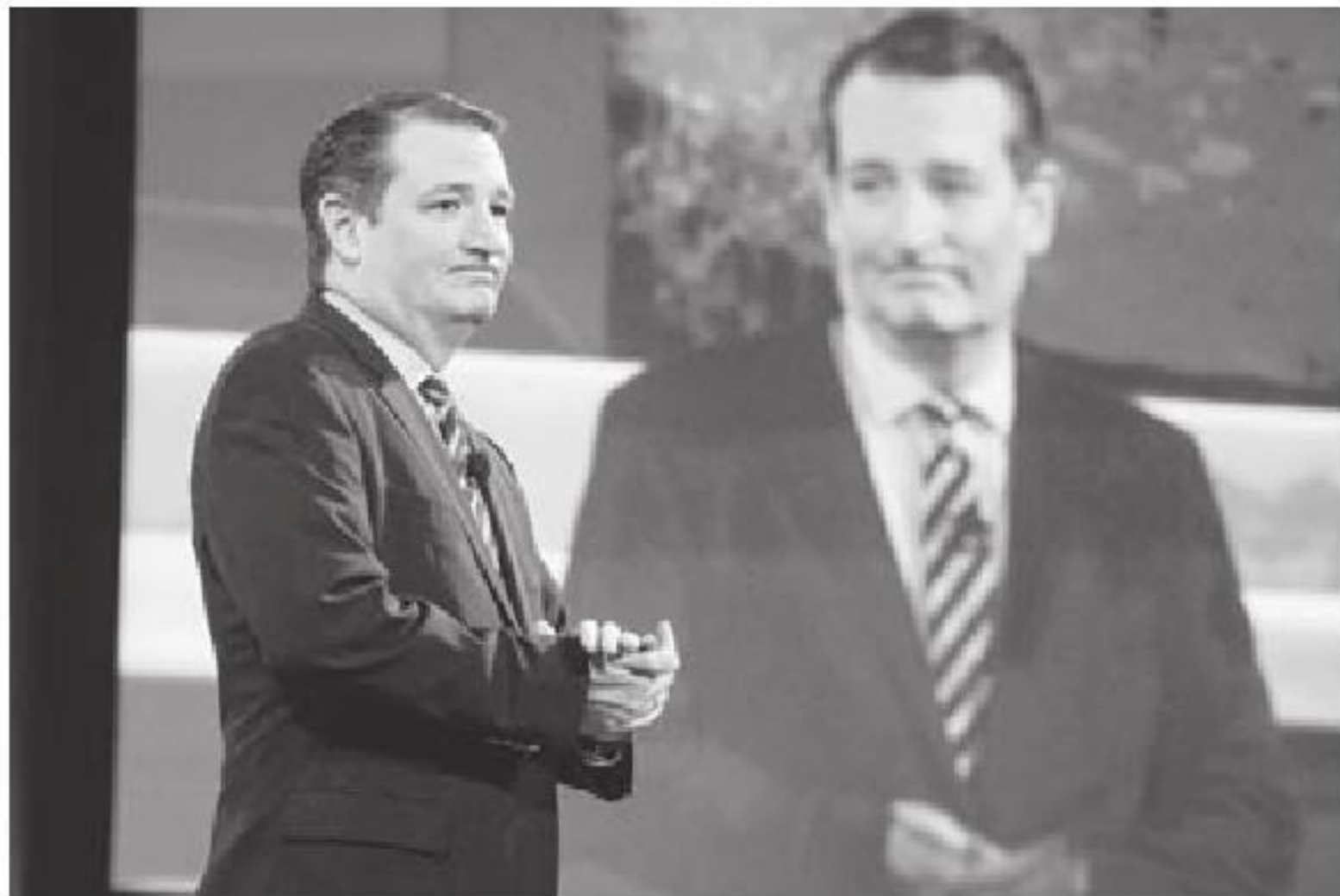
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At CPAC:

Republican hopefuls pressed over policy specifics



Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) speaks during the Conservative Political Action Conference in National Harbor, Md., Feb. 26, 2015.

(Jabin Botsford/The New York Times)

NICK CORASANITI
ALAN RAPPEPORT
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WASHINGTON - Prepared remarks are out. Answering tough questions is in. And there should be plenty of them - especially for a candidate named Bush.

"We don't want to hear the same freaking stump speech 20 times," said Ned Ryun, a board member of the American Conservative Union. "We want to hear people speak on specific issues."

That is the early outlook from the Conservative Political Action Conference, the annual gathering of many of the youngest and most fervent activists in the right wing of the Republican Party.

Nearly every major White House aspirant in the party is set to speak at the event on Thursday and Friday.

Especially at this point in the presidential cycle, CPAC, as it is universally known,

has long been a proving ground for Republican contenders in connecting with and inspiring the most enthusiastic, organized elements of the conservative base.

Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin seemed to have generated considerable excitement ahead of his appearance on Thursday afternoon. "He's underpromise, over-deliver in a nutshell," said Matt Robbins, the president of American Majority, a group that pushed for Walker's reelection as governor last year. "He's as Midwest as it gets."

Matt Kibbe, the president and chief executive of FreedomWorks, a Tea Party-aligned group, said, "I think Scott Walker is the candidate that might split the difference between the Rand Paul wing and the Jeb Bush wing."

But the crowd has a decidedly libertarian streak: Paul,

the junior senator from Kentucky, has won the CPAC straw poll the last two years, and broad support for a criminal justice overhaul among attendees this week - an issue that Paul has championed - suggested that he holds something of a home-court advantage this year as well.

Bush, the former Florida governor, whose fundraising sprint has given him an early advantage, appeared more a subject of curiosity, if not downright skepticism.

"I think young people are tired of hearing the Bush name," said Jeff Frazee, the executive director of Young Americans for Liberty, a group that was spawned by the 2008 presidential campaign of Ron Paul, Paul's father. "The policies that he represents are very much those of a moderate liberal."

Candidates' performances

at CPAC are generally appraised by the kind of responses they earn for their most rousing applause lines, along with how they fare in the straw poll, and no one here suggested that would suddenly change. But many attendees said they would not be satisfied with sharp-edged attacks alone.

"I would like to see more from the candidates than just railing on Obama and Hillary and the media," said Matt Batzel, the national executive director of American Majority. "It needs to be less about red meat and more about solutions and bold ideas for the problems that face the country." □

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Stiff sentence sought for Chicago woman in immigration case



Rasmieh Odeh, of Chicago, speaks to the media outside federal court in Detroit. Federal prosecutors in Detroit are seeking at least five years in prison for Chicago activist Odeh, who didn't tell U.S. immigration officials about her conviction decades ago for bombings in Israel. Odeh returns to court on March 12, 2015.

(AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

ED WHITE
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Federal prosecutors are recommending at least five years in prison for an activist who didn't tell immigration officials about her conviction decades ago for bombings in Israel, including one that killed two college students at a supermarket.

In a court filing, the prosecutors argued a "slap on the wrist" for Rasmieh Odeh could encourage others to seek a haven in the United States.

Odeh's sentencing on March 12 in Detroit is shaping up as a clash of conflict-

ing portrayals. Her lawyers said the 67-year-old who runs daily operations at Chicago's Arab American Action Network is a peaceful, selfless individual whose record of service outweighs any need for additional punishment. Dozens of people have written letters on her behalf.

The government, however, said this is no time to go easy on Odeh.

"A light sentence in this case would be a signal to anyone who has fought overseas for ISIS or a similar organization that there is not much risk in coming to the United States, hiding one's past and seeking citizenship," prosecutors Jonathan Tukel and Mark Jebson said in the filing Wednesday.

"If not caught, such a person derives all the benefits of citizenship," they said. "After perhaps 15-20 years of living in the United States, as was defendant Odeh, a person who is simply given a slap on the wrist and then deported is much better off than that person would have been by not having come to the United States in the first place."

Odeh is asking U.S. District Judge Gershwin Drain to keep her out of prison, although deportation appears inevitable after losing her citizenship.

"Ms. Odeh is not a terrorist. ... Ms. Odeh is asking this court to sentence her as she is today, 20 years after she came to America to help her family, and in light of the last 10 years in which she has built a life of devoted service to her community," defense attorney Michael Deutsch said in a court filing.

Dozens of supporters who attended her trial are likely to appear for her sentencing too. In November, she was convicted of failing to disclose her 1969 conviction for bombings in Jerusalem when she applied for citizenship in Detroit in 2004. She also made no disclosure when she first entered the U.S. in 1995.

Odeh spent a decade in an Israeli prison for the bombings. But she insists she was tortured into confessing to the crimes.

Her citizenship application asked if she had "EVER" been arrested, charged, convicted or imprisoned. Odeh checked the "no" box, telling jurors last fall that she believed the questions were related only to criminal history in the U.S. Tukel said that explanation was "ridiculous."

They could come up with a way to make his wife leave him, kill herself or disappear. They said he paid at least \$4,500 for spells and prayers from the company. Parvaiz was convicted of murder, conspiracy to commit murder, endangering the welfare of a child, child abuse, hindering apprehension by lying to police and weapons charges. He faces life in prison at his sentencing, which is scheduled for April 24.

other offenses and testified against Parvaiz. Stephen was having an affair with Parvaiz and admitted firing the fatal shots.

The victim's sister, Lubna Choudhry, cried in the hallway in the arms of her brother, Kaleem Norrani, after the verdict was read. The family did not immediately comment.

Prosecutors said during the three-week trial that Parvaiz emailed two black magic companies asking if they could come up with a way to make his wife leave him, kill herself or disappear. They said he paid at least \$4,500 for spells and prayers from the company. Parvaiz was convicted of murder, conspiracy to commit murder, endangering the welfare of a child, child abuse, hindering apprehension by lying to police and weapons charges. He faces life in prison at his sentencing, which is scheduled for April 24.

Man guilty of setting up wife's fatal shooting

MORRISTOWN, New Jersey (AP) — A man was convicted Thursday of setting up the fatal shooting of his Pakistan-born wife while the couple was on a walk with one of their young sons.

A jury deliberated for less than four hours before convicting Kashif Parvaiz of scheming with his girlfriend to kill his wife and make it look like a random attack. The August 2011 shooting occurred while Parvaiz and

his wife, 27-year-old Nazish Noorani, walked with their son near her family's home in a New Jersey suburb about 30 miles (50 kilometers) from New York that is home to a large Pakistani-American population.

Noorani was killed, Parvaiz was wounded and the boy was unharmed. The couple's other son was with family members in the house.

Antoinette Stephen pleaded guilty to murder and

other offenses and testified against Parvaiz. Stephen was having an affair with Parvaiz and admitted firing the fatal shots.

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US: 3 accused in Islamic State plot had vocalized beliefs

MICHAEL BALSAMO
VERENA DOBNIK

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Two men arrested on charges of plotting to help the Islamic State group were vocal both online and in person about their commitment and desire to join the extremists, with one speaking of shooting President Barack Obama to “strike fear in the hearts of infidels,” federal authorities said.

The men were among three charged Wednesday with attempt and conspiracy to provide material support to a terrorist organization.

Akhror Saidakhmetov, 19, was arrested at Kennedy Airport, where he was attempting to board a flight to Istanbul, with plans to head to Syria, authorities said. Another man, 24-year-old Abdurasul Hasanovich Juraboev, had a ticket to travel to Istanbul next month and was arrested in Brooklyn, federal prosecutors said. The two were held without bail after a brief court appearance.

A third defendant, Abror Habibov, 30, is accused of helping fund Saidakhmetov's efforts. He was ordered held without bail in Florida.

If convicted, each faces a maximum of 15 years in prison.

On Thursday, Michael Steinbach, the FBI's assistant director for counterterrorism, told a House committee the case was an example of “what the threat looks like.”

In some cases, individuals pursue an “intellectual curiosity” online that leads them to become radicalized or are already radical-



Zak Khan, owner of Gyro King, where Abdurasul Hasanovich Juraboev worked, speaks to reporters, Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015. Three men, including Juraboev, are accused of plotting to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State group and wage war against the United States; they were arrested on terrorism charges Wednesday, federal officials said.

ized once they turn to the Internet.

Officials are also encountering those who, like the three charged Wednesday in New York, feel thwarted in their efforts to travel overseas and discuss attacks against the U.S. instead.

“We’re seeing that play more and more often,” Steinbach said.

Authorities said Juraboev first came to the attention of law enforcement in August, when he posted on an Uzbek-language website that propagates the Islamic State ideology.

“Greetings! We too want to pledge our allegiance and commit ourselves while not present there,” he wrote, according to federal authorities. “Is it possible to commit ourselves as dedicated martyrs anyway while here?”

“What I’m saying is, to shoot Obama and then get shot ourselves, will it do? That will strike fear in the hearts of infidels.” Juraboev was visited by federal law enforcement officials and told officials he wanted to express support for the Islamic State group. He mentioned Saidakhmetov as a friend and sympathizer, officials said.

Juraboev worked slicing lettuce at a Brooklyn gyro restaurant and earned about \$500 a week, said Gyro King owner, Zakarya Khan. Juraboev had told his boss Thursday would be his last day of work because he planned to visit family in his native Uzbekistan, Khan said.

“I used to respect him and I used to take care of him,” Khan said Thursday. “If I would have noticed even one statement from him

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

saying something about America or something about a jihad or fighting, I would have definitely had a very good conversation with him, but he never mentioned anything at all.” Khan said he was shocked to hear about Juraboev's arrest but was “even more shocked” to hear that Saidakhmetov had been tied to the plot.

“He sometimes used to come here,” Khan said. “He was a young kid, very innocent, with a very innocent face.” According to the federal complaint, Saidakhmetov said he intended to shoot police officers and FBI agents if his plan to join the IS group in Syria was thwarted.

But Saidakhmetov's mother took away his passport to prevent him from traveling, according to the com-

plaint. When he called and asked for it back, she asked where he wanted to go and he said that a person who had the chance to join the Islamic State group and didn't would face divine judgment. She hung up on him.

Saidakhmetov's attorney, Adam Perlmutter, said his client would plead not guilty. “This is the type of case that highlights everything that is wrong with how the Justice Department approaches these cases,” Perlmutter said. Juraboev's attorney had no immediate comment.

Habibov worked with Saidakhmetov and helped him get travel documents and a plane ticket, federal officials said. Habibov, who had lived in Brooklyn, moved a few years ago and fell out of contact with the borough's Uzbek community, said Farhod Sulton, president of the Brooklyn-based Vatandosh Uzbek-American Federation. He had stopped coming to Uzbek gatherings, Sulton said, and was reading extremist literature. “We had a tense conversation about the ultra-orthodox understanding of Islam. I think he got into the wrong hands in terms of learning Islam.”

Saidakhmetov is a Brooklyn resident and citizen of Kazakhstan. Habibov had been in the U.S. legally, but his visa had expired. He was appointed a public defender Wednesday.

The Kazakhstan Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it was aware of Saidakhmetov's arrest. It said he was born in southern Kazakhstan, left for Uzbekistan in October 2011 and hadn't returned. □



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American Living:

Fruits and vegetables get a celebrity marketing push

CANDICE CHOI

AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — What if cauliflower got the same type of marketing firepower as candy bars and potato chips?

A campaign being launched Thursday plans to put that premise to the test by enlisting celebrities including actress Jessica Alba and NBA star Stephen Curry to shill for fruits and vegetables. The campaign was announced by the Partnership for a Healthier America, which works with private companies and was created in conjunction with first lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! initiative to get families to eat better and exercise. The

push is being called "FNV," which is intended to be a catchier way to refer to "fruits and vegetables."

"We were inspired by the big brands and, can we do what they're able to do?" said Lawrence Soler, CEO of the Partnership for a Healthier America.

To start, the campaign will primarily be on social media networks like Twitter, where short videos featuring Alba and NFL quarterbacks Colin Kaepernick and Cam Newton will be posted. Additional videos will be released in coming days starring Curry, New York Giant Victor Cruz and others.

A teaser video for the broader campaign to be



Apples at the Gotham Bar and Grill in New York. A campaign being launched Thursday has enlisted celebrities including actress Jessica Alba and NBA star Stephen Curry to shill for fruits and vegetables.

(Morgan Ione Yeager/The New York Times)

posted online Thursday features stars with fruits and vegetables set to music, with the words "PREPARE TO BE MARKETING TO" flashing on the screen. Around spring, a marketing push including TV and print ads is slated to hit two markets — Fresno, California, and Hampton Roads, Virginia. Over time, Soler said the idea is to expand the campaign more broadly, although plans haven't been pinned down.

The FNV campaign was created by the ad agency Victors & Spoils, which lists clients including Coca-Cola and General Mills. The agency got involved after being asked to cook up a similar effort for broccoli in 2013 for a New York Times story by Michael Moss, author of "Salt, Sugar Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us."

Andrew Nathan, chief marketing officer for Victors & Spoils, noted that fruits and vegetables are already attractive subjects with vibrant colors and interesting flavors. The only thing they lack is the "marketing pixie dust" that makes packaged foods so irresistible,

he said.

"Obviously, our inspiration for all this was behaving like a big, iconic brand," Nathan said.

The concept proposed in the New York Times story had already been getting attention; Nathan said Victors & Spoils has since been tapped to create a similar campaign for a major broccoli producer. There have been other efforts to spruce up the way produce is marketed, too. In 2010, baby carrot farmers ran an "Eat 'Em Like Junk Food" campaign for the miniature snacks in Cincinnati and Syracuse, N.Y. Todd Putman, chief commercial officer of bagged carrot maker Bolthouse Farms, said that push resulted in an increase in carrot sales in the two markets, and has helped shape how the company markets its various offerings, including premium juices.

"For years, people have been advertising fruits and vegetables in a very rational way," he said, noting that messages around produce are usually about how many daily servings people should eat.

He said FNV was a continuation of the idea that fruits and vegetables should be marketed in a more "emotive" way.

During her remarks on stage at the Partnership for a Healthier America summit, the first lady expressed excitement for FNV.

"If folks are going to pour money into marketing unhealthy foods, let's fight back with ads for healthy foods," she said.

Among those providing financial and other support for FNV are Bolthouse Farms, which is owned by Campbell Soup, and the Produce Marketing Association, a trade group whose members include Sunkist, Dole, Wal-Mart and Chick-fil-A. Other supporters include the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Alba's Honest Company, which makes baby and home products.

Putman said FNV already has about \$5 million in funding, with plans to continue raising funds. Still, it's up against the considerable resources of big food marketers. For the first nine months of last year, for example, McDonald's Corp. spent \$587.6 million on TV advertising in the U.S. alone, according to Kantar Media. Coca-Cola Co. spent \$265.2 million.

Michael Jacobson, executive director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest in Washington, D.C., said an advertising campaign for fruits and vegetables could be powerful in influencing eating decisions, but that its effectiveness would depend on how much support it gets and how persistent it is.

"A lot of money for one day won't do anything," he said. □

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'Jihadi John' is identified as a British citizen

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LONDON - The man in the black balaclava who seems to have beheaded several foreign hostages in Islamic State videos has been identified by British security services as Mohammed Emwazi, a British citizen from London.

Known in the news media as "Jihadi John," he is said to have been born in Kuwait and traveled to Syria in 2012. His name was first published Thursday on the website of The Washington Post. The story was confirmed by a senior British security official, who said that the British government had identified Emwazi some time ago but had not disclosed his name for operational reasons. The identification was also confirmed in Washington by a senior U.S. military intelligence official. Emwazi, 26, grew up in West London and graduated from the University of Westminster with a degree in computer programming. He first showed up in Islamic State videos in August, when he appeared to behead the American journalist James Foley and deliver threats against the West. The actual execution was not included in the video. The same man was apparently seen in the videos of the beheadings of a second American journalist Steven J. Sotloff; the British aid worker David Cawthorne Haines; the British taxi driver Alan Henning; and the American aid worker Peter Kassig. □

Militants abduct more Christians, smash artifacts

ZEINA KARAM
S. SALAHEDDIN
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Islamic State militants seized more Christians from their homes in northeastern Syria in the past three days, bringing the total number abduct-

of Mosul.

The video, coinciding with mounting fears over the fate of the captive Christian Assyrians in Syria, sent a fresh wave of dread across the region, particularly among minorities who feel targeted by the group.

solidarity with the victims in Syria and Iraq. Some cried openly.

One man held a banner that read: "We will not surrender, we will not be broken." A few young men said they were preparing to go to Syria to fight and help

the black market in order to finance their bloody campaign in the region.

In the video released Thursday, militants used sledgehammers and drills to smash and destroy several large statues, which are then shown chipped and in pieces. The five-minute video also shows a black-clad man at an archaeological site in Mosul, drilling through and destroying a winged-bull — an Assyrian protective deity — that dates to the 7th century B.C.

The video was posted on social media accounts affiliated with the Islamic State group. Although it could not be independently verified by The Associated Press, it appeared to be authentic, based on knowledge of the Mosul Museum.

A professor at the Archaeology College in Mosul confirmed to the AP that the two sites depicted in the video are the city museum and a location known as Nirgal Gate, one of several gates to the capital of the Assyrian Empire, Ninevah.

"I'm totally shocked," Amir al-Jumaili said by phone from outside of Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city. "It's a catastrophe. With the destruction of these artifacts, we can no longer be proud of Mosul's civilization."

Very few of the museum pieces are not genuine, he said.

Irina Bokova, director general of the U.N.'s culture agency UNESCO, said in a statement that she was "deeply shocked" at the video. □



An Iraqi Assyrian woman who fled from Mosul to Lebanon holds a placard depicting the map of Iraq and Syria, during a sit-in for abducted Christians in Syria and Iraq, at a church in Sabtiyesh area east Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015. Islamic State militants snatched more hostages from homes in northeastern Syria over the past three days, bringing the total number of Christians abducted to over 220 in the one the largest hostage-takings by the extremist group, activists said Thursday.

(AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

ed by the extremist group to over 220, activists said Thursday.

At the same time, the extremists also released a video showing the continued destruction of the heritage of the lands under their control. It depicted men using sledgehammers to smash ancient Mesopotamian statues and other artifacts in Iraq's northern city

"Daesh is wiping Assyrian heritage in Mosul, and at the same time wiping them geographically from the face of the Earth," said Osama Edward, director of the Assyrian Network for Human Rights in Syria. He referred to the Islamic State by its Arabic acronym.

About 200 Assyrians and other Christians gathered in a church east of Beirut in

their brethren defend their homes against the Islamic State group.

The destruction of artifacts in the Mosul museum is part of a campaign by IS extremists who have destroyed a number of shrines — including Muslim holy sites — to eliminate what they view as heresy. They also are believed to have sold ancient artifacts on

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Ukraine, rebels start pulling back heavy weapons in the east

PETER LEONARD
VADIM GHIRDA
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Warring parties in Ukraine took a major stride toward quelling unrest in the country's east Thursday with the declared start of a supervised withdrawal of heavy weapons from the front line. Ukrainian and separatist officials have noted a sharp decline in violence,

although the chances of a long-lasting settlement remain clouded by lingering suspicions. While announcing the pullback, Ukraine's Defense Ministry warned that it would revise arms withdrawal plans in the event of any attacks. "Ukrainian troops are in a state of total readiness to defend the country," it said in a statement. The pullback was supposed



A Ukrainian serviceman speaks with local schoolboys in the village of Chermalyk, eastern Ukraine, Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015. In a long-awaited development, Ukrainian forces and separatist fighters both announced Thursday they are moving heavy weapons from the front line in eastern Ukraine. (AP Photo/Evgeniy Maloletka)

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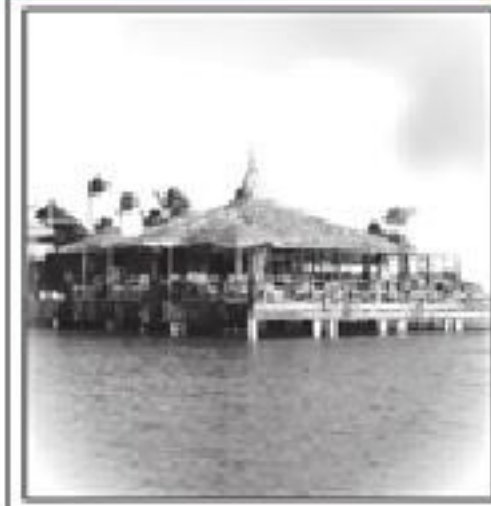
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to have started over a week ago under a peace deal agreed upon earlier this month by the leaders of Russia and Ukraine to end the fighting in eastern Ukraine that has killed nearly 5,800 people since April. The intensity of fighting has declined notably in recent days, despite daily charges by both sides that the other is violating the Feb. 15 cease-fire. Rebels in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions insist they have spent the last few days drawing back their heavy weapons — a claim not yet verified by independent observers. Donetsk separatist leader Alexander Zakharchenko mirrored Ukrainian willingness to immediately resort to combat if provoked. "Military equipment will be returned to their positions. Any attacks on our cities

and villages will be nipped in the bud," he said. The press office for Ukrainian military operations in the east said in a statement that government forces on Thursday started moving 100 mm anti-tank guns back the 25-kilometer (16-mile) minimum stipulated by the peace deal. AP journalists in the southeastern government-held port city of Mariupol on Thursday saw weapons matching that description heading away from the front. Near Olenivka, a town south of the rebel-held stronghold of Donetsk, AP journalists saw rebel forces moving at least six 120 mm self-propelled howitzers from the front line. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which has hundreds of monitors in the region, has not yet reported on the

progress of the withdrawal. In Rome, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said he welcomed indications of reduced fighting, but repeated claims that Russia has supplied separatists with large quantities of weapons. "Russia has transferred in recent months over 1,000 pieces of equipment — tanks, artillery, advanced air defense system — and they have to withdraw this equipment and they have to stop supporting the separatists," Stoltenberg told reporters Thursday. Russia denies that it arms the rebels. Michael Bociurkiw, a spokesman for the OSCE monitoring mission, said the weapons withdrawal requires both sides to inventory their arms and provide details about how and where they are to be relocated. □



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Puerto Rico seeks protection of federal bankruptcy code



This photo shows the financial district in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico government officials sought Thursday to convince U.S. legislators that the island's financially struggling public corporations should be allowed to restructure their debt under the federal bankruptcy code. (AP Photo/Ricardo Arduengo)

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico government officials sought Thursday to convince U.S. legislators that the island's financially struggling public corporations should be allowed to restructure their debt under the federal bankruptcy code.

The push comes weeks after a federal judge ruled that a local debt-restructuring law that Puerto Rico's governor approved last year was unconstitutional.

Melba Acosta, president of Puerto Rico's Government Development Bank, was

among those who testified before a U.S. House Judiciary Committee hearing in Washington, D.C.

"The fiscal and economic situation in Puerto Rico has reached a critical moment," she said. "If the public corporations default on their obligations and there is no clear legal regime, creditors may attempt to engage in a race to the courthouse."

Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi has filed a bill seeking to allow the island's state-owned corporations to file for Chapter 9 if needed. It would not apply to debt issued directly by Puerto Rico's government.

The U.S. territory is in its eighth year of recession and is struggling to reduce \$73 billion in public debt,

with public corporations holding nearly 40 percent of that amount. Investors have grown increasingly concerned that the island's Electric Energy Authority, which holds about \$9 million in debt, could be one of the first to possibly go bankrupt.

Moody's Investors Service said in a report last week that Puerto Rico might default on its debt in the next two years.

The island issued a record \$3.5 billion in bonds last year to help generate more revenue, and it expects to soon issue \$2 billion more, backed by a proposed excise tax increase on crude oil. The revenue would help strengthen the finances of the Highway and Transportation Authority, which owes \$2.2 billion

to Puerto Rico's Government Development Bank, about 21 percent of the bank's portfolio.

Acosta said that if the bill is not approved, it would make it more expensive for the government to borrow money and make it harder for public corporations to become self-sufficient.

Puerto Rico is currently the third-largest issuer of municipal bonds in the United States.

Critics say the bill would affect \$48 billion worth of Puerto Rico municipal bonds and hurt bondholders.

"Puerto Rican law already provides an alternative: receivership," said Thomas Mayer, who represents funds managed by Franklin Municipal Bond Group and OppenheimerFunds, Inc. □

Protesters decry Dominican treatment of people of Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — About 10,000 people marched in Haiti's capital this week to protest what they say is chronic mistreatment of their countrymen in the neighboring Dominican Republic, where many Haitians have long lived in the shadows.

The demonstration was mostly peaceful, with young and old protesters waving Haitian flags and demanding that Dominicans respect the human rights of Haitians. It was organized by an association of lawyers and civil society groups.

When the crowd got to the Dominican consulate, one man managed to climb up on the roof and rip down a Dominican flag. The flag was doused with fuel and

burned by the cheering crowd. Some protesters briefly chased a woman they believed to be Dominican. There were no reports of arrests by the Haitian National Police. Some of the officers monitoring the protest also held Haitian flags. The march came about two weeks after a shoe shiner of Haitian descent was found hanging from a tree in a square in the Dominican city of Santiago. Haitians believe Henry Claude Jean was the victim of racist violence, but Dominican investigators say it appeared he was killed by other Haitians. No one knows exactly how many Haitian migrants live in the Dominican Republic, but the United Nations has estimated there may be as many as 500,000. □



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On eve of talks with US: Reality sinking in for many Cubans

M. WEISSENSTEIN
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — The jubilation that greeted the announcement of U.S.-Cuban detente two months ago has faded to resignation for many Cubans who are realizing they're at the start of a long process unlikely to ease their daily struggles anytime soon. Dreams of U.S. products

Delgado, a retired worker in the Ministry of Foreign Commerce who subsists on a pension of \$11 a month. "People are so desperate ... they wanted immediate, concrete results." It's a stark contrast to the giddy moments on Dec. 17 when Cubans cheered in the streets after Presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro announced that they were

that an opening with the U.S. did not mean things would change overnight. "I think that not just Cubans but Americans and the whole world needed to be made clear about the reality of what was being announced and unfortunately the expectations had to be lowered," Machin said. But pessimism is far from universal.



Roberto Alvarez, 47, right, chats with friends backdropped by a wall decorated with images of Cuban revolutionary heroes, Che Guevara, Fidel Castro and his brother, President Raul Castro, in Havana, Cuba. "Any kind of benefit for the Cuban people, that'll be hard," said Alvarez when asked if the negotiations with the US would help.

(AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

flooding Havana stores and easy visits to family members in Florida have dissipated, in part because of a coordinated campaign by Cuban state media and officials to lower expectations and remind people that the main planks of the half-century-old U.S. trade embargo remain in place. As Cuban officials head to Washington for a second round of talks on restoring diplomatic relations Friday, many working-class islanders say they no longer expect immediate changes in their lives regardless of what emerges from the negotiations. "The great expectations that surged with the news that first day have been lowered a lot and now the man in the street barely talks about it anymore," said Magali

exchanging imprisoned spies, moving to reopen embassies in Havana and Washington, and seeking to normalize their countries' long-dysfunctional relationship. "Expectations went far beyond what was in the announcements," said Joaquin Borges, a sociologist and widely read cultural critic. "Some people misunderstood things, particularly on the street, as if everything was going to be solved and the shortages that Cuba has had because of the embargo and the economic crisis were going to be resolved from one day to another." Gustavo Machin, Cuba's deputy head of U.S. relations, said the communist government felt it needed to make clear to its people and the rest of the world

Obama's easing of restrictions on U.S. travel to Cuba and the quadrupling of limits on remittances are expected to have a dramatic short-term impact on the privileged class of Cubans with links to the global economy. There are also thousands of motivated, highly educated young people who hope to seize on the opening with the U.S. as a chance to move up into greater prosperity. "I'm an optimist. I have a vision of a better future," Jose Torres, a nurse, said as he stood on a street corner checking text messages on his smartphone. "Better Internet, better in the sense of travel to other countries, exporting Cuban goods, importing U.S. goods ... having access to Facebook and Google." □

Victory for Argentine leader: Judge rejects cover-up case

A. CALATRAVA
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — A federal judge on Thursday dismissed allegations that Argentine President Cristina Fernandez tried to cover-up the involvement of Iranian officials in the 1994 bombing of a Jewish center, easing a crisis for her government fed by the death of the prosecutor who brought the case. Judge Daniel Rafecas said the documents originally filed by the late prosecutor Alberto Nisman failed to meet "the minimal conditions needed to launch a formal court investigation."

"There is not a single element of evidence, even circumstantial, that points to the actual head of state," the judge said.

Nisman had filed the complaint just days before he died on Jan. 18 under mysterious circumstances. Polls show many Argentines suspect officials had some hand in the death, though Fernandez and aides have suggested the death was actually aimed at destabilizing her government.

While the decision can be appealed, the judge's scathing wording appears to substantiate government insistence that Nisman's case was baseless, though his death still casts a shadow across the administration.

Tens of thousands of Argentines marched through the capital last week demanding answers a month after he was found in his bathroom with a bullet in his right temple.

Nisman had asked judges to authorize a formal criminal investigation of the president, Foreign Minister Hector Timerman and other figures on allegations that agreed to grant impunity for eight Iranians accused in the attack on the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association in which 85 people died. In return, he said, Iran would increase trade with Argentina.

The prosecutor who took over the case after Nisman's death, Gerardo Pollicita, renewed his request.

Rafecas also rejected Nisman's theory that the deal was linked to an agreement for the two countries to jointly investigate the bombing. He noted that the agreement, scuttled by Congress, never took effect. Investigators say they are trying to determine if Nisman was killed or committed suicide.

The president initially suggested the 51-year-old prosecutor had killed himself, then did an about-face a few days later, saying she suspected he had been slain.

She suggested that he might have been manipulated by disgruntled rouge intelligence agents, and pushed through a law to reform the spy service immediately after Nisman's death. Congress gave final approval to the measure earlier Thursday.

Authorities say they are investigating the possibility of suicide or homicide. "I think the accusations themselves have weakened her government, and Argentines are still open to conspiracy theories. Even with the dismissal of the charges against her, there are still questions about who killed Nisman," said Shannon O'Neal, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, a U.S.-based foreign-policy think tank.

Fernandez also shuffled her Cabinet on Thursday, replacing three ministers with close aides.

Anibal Fernandez, who had been the presidency's general secretary, will replace Jorge Capitanich as Cabinet chief.

Fernandez's post will now be taken by Eduardo De Pedro, a lawmaker and leader of La Campora, a political group that is ultra-loyal to the president and that is led by her son, Maximo Kirchner. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Romantic Sunset Beach Wedding for David & Kathleen



EAGLE BEACH - A beautiful wedding was held on the beach for David and Kathleen Jerauld during their most recent visit to Aruba!

Their story begins when they met thru "Match.com." After some chatting back and forth on the computer, an actual face-

to-face date was set up in Chatham, Massachusetts for breakfast at Larry's. It was love at first sight: Kathy liked the way Dave's friends treated him with respect. She also loves the fact that Dave's children Donna and David make her feel very comfortable and that Dave has 5 lovely grandchildren who adore their grandfather to the moon and back. To make this fairytale complete, Kathy's daughter Jilanne, her Husband Mike

and their three wonderful boys get along very well with Dave's family. Dave has known Willie, the reverend who sealed the wedding, for over 19 years while coming back to his home away from home, the Paradise Beach Villas. Friends they have made over the years attended the beach wedding, with Jean and Fred Cross as very special guests! To quote Mr. and Mrs. Jerauld after the wedding ceremony: "It is wonderful we found each other and are so happy!" □

Culinary Enchantment Awaits at Carambola Restaurant



EAGLE BEACH - Carambola is the perfect choice for a memorable culinary experience in Aruba. Located at Paradise Beach Villas on Eagle Beach opposite La Cabana Resort, Carambola Restaurant features International cuisine with a touch of the Caribbean. Our talented Chef creates fresh menu choices daily highlighting Caribbean flavors intriguingly melded with international cuisine. A large selection of fresh fish dishes, including our daily Red Snapper specials, and premium steaks and chops are accompanied by innovative appetizers and salads, as well as decadent dessert offerings. We also offer amazing specials on Wednesdays and Fridays too! Our full bar and captivating wine list complements the extensive menu. Named #1 Restaurant on Restaurants.com in 2012, and Awarded "One of the



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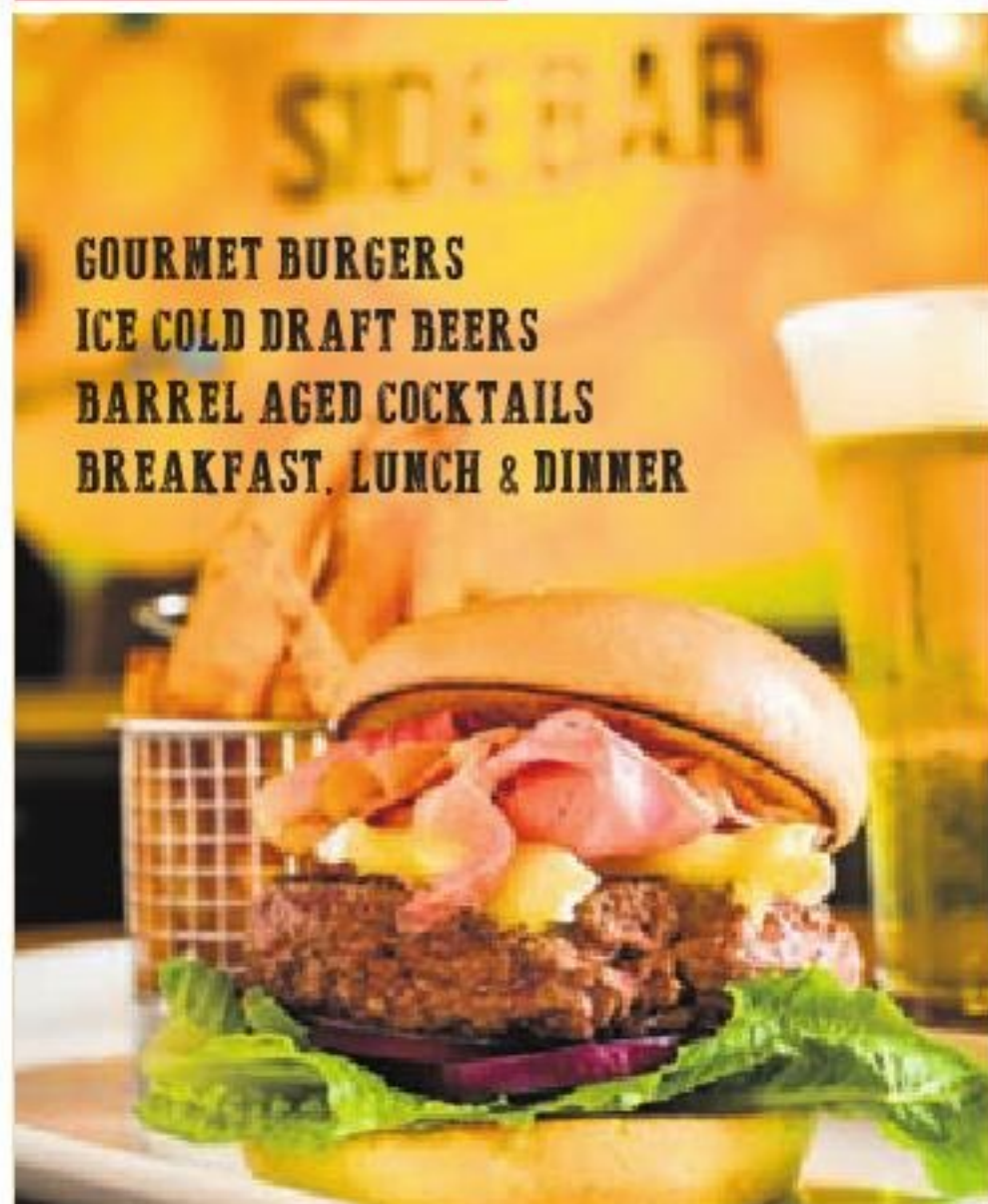
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Sidebar is the newest restaurant on Aruba, and oh boy, it is a beauty! Unique in a trendy, sassy and sexy way, it is ready to welcome all of you.



Common ground and denominating factor of the guests includes the enjoyment of life, in particular the good things, such as great bistro food, wonderful drinks and a relaxed, happy atmosphere. Sidebar is the name of a stylish, hip restaurant on the side of the Renaissance Marketplace; just hop inside, sit at the bar or on the amazing porch and enjoy – the party at Sidebar starts at 8 am and goes on until midnight.

At Sidebar you can sit in a booth, on a lounge chair, on a bar stool or stand at a cocktail table. Side Bar is all about options, so go and check it out on the far end corner of the Renaissance Marketplace.

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Loyal Visitors Honored at the Tropicana Resort and Casino



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two very nice couples as Distinguished Visitors at the Tropicana Resort and Casino. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Mi-

chael and Mrs. Patricia Helwig from Hawthorne New York, and Mr. James and Mrs. Stella Thurston from Palmetto, Florida. Both couples love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, the Tropicana Casino and being on Aruba and staying at the Tropicana is like being home for them and the wonderful staff of

the resort is like family to them.

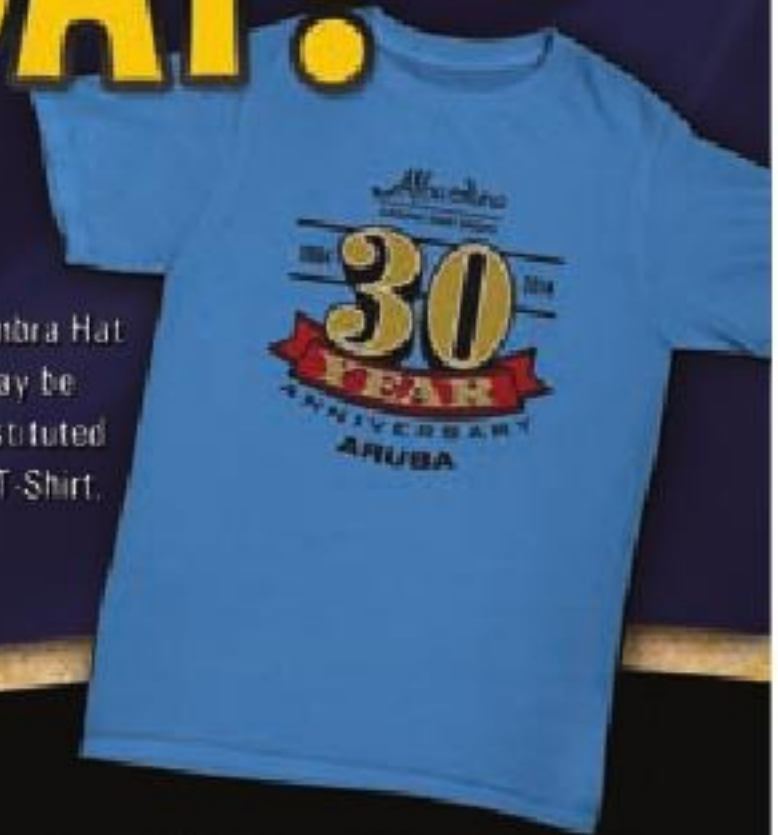
The certificates were presented at the recently renovated Tropicana Casino by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Nelida Rodriguez, Ms. Jacky Feliciano, Mr. Wilfred Trimon Dir. Casino Operations and Mr. Richard Roy GM at the Tropicana Resort and Casino. □



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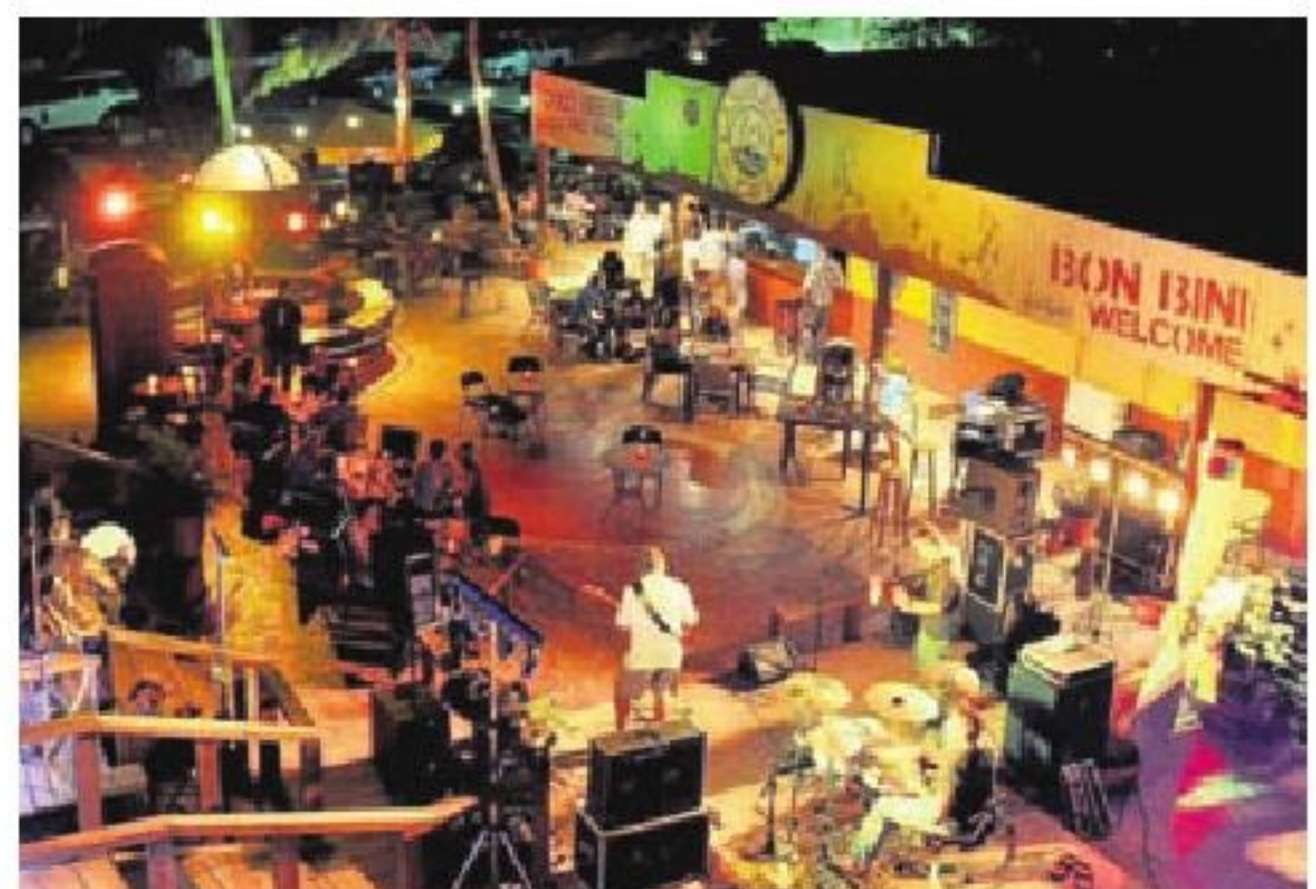
Kukoo Kunuku Serves Up Fun and Laughter in Aruba!

PALM BEACH - Born out of the dreams of a couple who escaped south for the winter and never left, Kukoo Kunuku is the place on Aruba to find great food and make fun memories with the people around you.

Kukoo Kunuku offers party bus tours and other adventures that take guests on a whirlwind tour of some of Aruba's best sites as well as fun places where they can relax and grab a drink. Kukoo Kunuku is

staffed by an eclectic mix of valued employees as diverse and interesting as Aruba itself. Their motto speaks for itself and is echoed by the experiences of taking a tour with them: "The perfect way for the old and the reckless and the young and the restless to spend an evening in Paradise."

Aruba's latest dinner under the stars location, Casibari Grill, is now featured on the Kukoo Kunuku Dinner and Barhopping Tour. Kukoo



Kunuku guests can now enjoy a great local BBQ meal with all the trimmings before embarking on a fun barhopping and nightlife adventure. The newly renovated Casibari, is now open to the public seven days a week serving delicious drinks and an exciting array of menu options. It is full of character with an atmosphere that can't be beat anywhere else on the island!

Take the opportunity to dance,

drink, talk, and enjoy the music at Casibari Grill when you stop by on a Kukoo Kunuku tour the next time you are in Aruba. More information and reviews of Kukoo Kunuku can be found on TripAdvisor- it comes highly recommended from travelers all around the world!

For more information or to make reservations, please contact the Kukoo Kunuku at (297) 586-2010 or visit the website www.kukookunuku.com!

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



HIGH WINDS

McIlroy struggles in wind at Honda Classic

Rory McIlroy gestures after hitting from the first tee during the first round of the Honda Classic golf tournament, Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015 in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
Associated Press
Page 19



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Murray loses to Croatian teen in Dubai

SANDRA HARWITT

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Andy Murray was knocked out of the Dubai Championships on Thursday, losing to 18-year-old Borna Coric 6-1, 6-3 in the quarterfinals.

Murray, who reached the Australian Open final at the beginning of the month, had 55 unforced errors and only 15 winners against the Croatian teen. Many of his shots were landing in the net or sailing beyond the lines.

"I would definitely say I was a little bit sluggish at the beginning of the match, but in the second set I definitely started to move a bit better, and play a little bit better," Murray said. "But, yeah, I started the match not good."

Coric, who never offered Murray a break-point opportunity, reached his second career ATP semifinal, where he will face Roger Federer.

Coric's first semifinal came last year in Basel, Switzerland, after beating Rafael



Andy Murray of the Great Britain reacts after he lost a point against Borna Coric of Croatia during a quarter final match of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015.

Nadal.

"He didn't make many errors," said Murray, who won his only other match against Coric in 2013 in the Davis Cup. "He played very solid and he moved well."

"I made way too many mistakes from the beginning of

the match right through to the end."

The 84th-ranked Coric, the youngest player in the top 100, briefly wobbled when he was at 2-1 in the second set.

"I started to realize that I can win this match, so I

started a little bit (to) overthink," Coric said. "But after two games I got my focus back."

Coric entered the main draw as a lucky loser after Philipp Kohlschreiber withdrew. And on Wednesday, he was tied at 4-4 in a third-

set tiebreaker when Marcos Baghdatis retired from the match with cramps.

"I know I got a little bit lucky with coming in the main draw," Coric said. "And also yesterday, I was actually very lucky because I was 4-1 down, double break, and also 5-3."

"But that's tennis, and that's life, and another day."

Federer, the defending champion, advanced when Richard Gasquet retired from their quarterfinal with a back injury. Federer was leading 6-1 at the time. Top-seeded Novak Djokovic needed only 49 minutes to beat Turkish qualifier Marsel Ilhan 6-1, 6-1, and set up his semifinal against the fourth-seeded Tomas Berdych. "He lacks a little bit of experience and confidence on being in the big stadium," Djokovic said of Ilhan. "That's where I used my opportunity from the start." Berdych, a finalist here the past two years, came through with a 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 win over Sergiy Stakhovsky of Ukraine. □



Venus Williams of the US returns the ball to Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland during the quarterfinals of the WTA Qatar Ladies Open in Doha, Qatar, Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015.

Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Venus Williams beat Agnieszka Radwanska for the second time this year to line up two-time champion Victoria Azarenka in the Qatar

Open semifinals on Thursday.

Williams, who beat Radwanska to reach the Australian Open quarterfinals last month, won 6-4, 1-6,

Venus takes long road, Azarenka set up Qatar Open semifinal

6-3, the third time in four days she's gone the distance.

Azarenka, the 2012 and 2013 champ who received a wild-card entry, beat third-seeded Caroline Wozniacki 6-3, 6-1 in another repeat result from the Australian Open.

Meanwhile, top-seeded Petra Kvitova was ousted by Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain 3-6, 6-0, 6-3, for the second time in two weeks. Suarez Navarro also beat Kvitova last week in the Dubai third round.

The Spaniard's semifinal

opponent will be Lucie Safarova, the Czech who dispatched sixth-seeded Andrea Petkovic of Germany 6-2, 6-1.

Williams started her quarterfinal with a break, wobbled during the second set, and was quick to recoup in the decider, in which fourth-seeded Radwanska mounted a late challenge. Williams sealed her first semifinal in Doha with a forehand winner down the line.

"I just tried to stay focused because she wasn't going to let up," Williams said af-


ter the 2-hour, 16-minute match.

Williams has won all four of her previous matches against Azarenka, but was expecting to endure another long day.

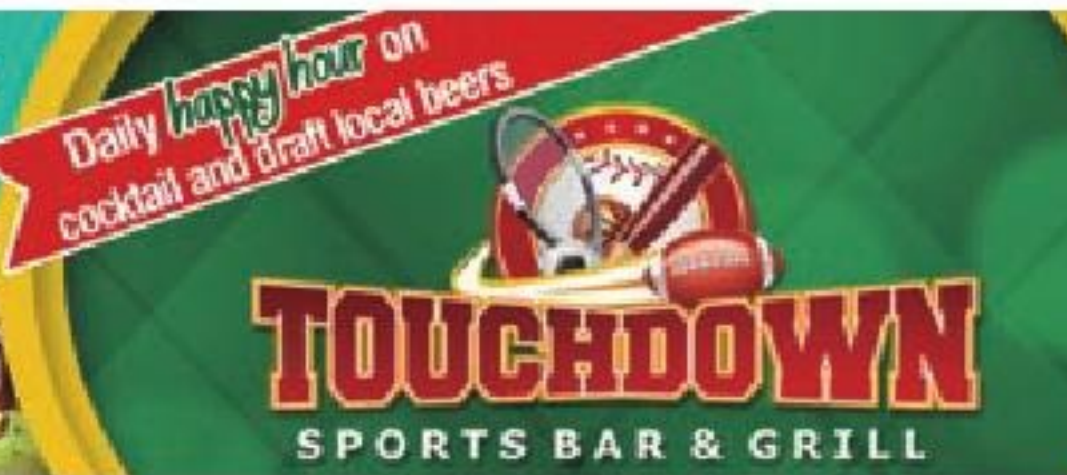
"Every match (this week) has been three sets, so it's been really challenging," Williams said. "No one gives you a point, you have to fight, fight, fight for each point, and I guess it'll be more of that tomorrow."

Meanwhile, Azarenka fired 26 winners against Wozniacki in a match of former No. 1s. □

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Herman survives windy day at Honda Classic



Phil Mickelson watches his shot off the first tee during the first round of the Honda Classic golf tournament, Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015 in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Playing in America for the first time this year, Rory McIlroy's first shot was a 2-iron out of play.

A relentless wind with gusts that approached 35 mph provided a rude welcome to just about everyone Thursday at the Honda Classic except for Jim Herman, who somehow made it around PGA National without a bogey for a 5-under 65 and a one-shot lead.

McIlroy managed to salvage a tough day with by holing a 30-foot birdie putt and two-putting for birdie on the 18th hole for a 3-over 73. It was his highest score to par since he opened with a 3-over 74 at The Barclays seven months ago. And he didn't seem too bothered.

The world's No. 1 player was competing for the first

time since he won in Dubai a month ago. And he wasn't alone. He played with Dustin Johnson, who birdied his last two holes for a 77, and Phoenix Open winner Brooks Koepka, who shot a 78.

"The conditions were obviously very tricky from the start," McIlroy said. "From the first hole, it was always going to be a day like that. I feel like I salvaged something out of the round the last couple holes, but it was just a day to keep trying, not to give up and know that anything around level, 1-, 2-over par still isn't out of it."

Only 19 players managed to break par. Only three holes — both par 5s and the downwind ninth — played under par. Seventeen players had a front-nine score of 40 or higher.

Herman didn't mind the wind, though he moved to south Florida more than

a decade ago and was surprised earlier in the week when there wasn't hardly any wind at all. Even with a 65, it still wasn't easy. He twice saved par from the fairway and rolled in a 35-foot birdie putt on the 16th hole.

"I don't mind it blowing," Herman said. "I feel like I can control the golf ball pretty well with my iron game. So yeah, it was OK that the wind was blowing." Brendan Steele pitched in from about 35 yards to save bogey on the 14th hole, a key moment in his round of 66. Martin Flores, Kapalua winner Patrick Reed and Padraig Harrington were at 67. U.S. Open champion Martin Kaymer was among those at 68.

Harrington would seem to feel at home in these conditions. On a day when the gusts were relentless, they still would be considered a wee

breeze in Ireland. Except that the Irishman has spent the last four weeks in gorgeous, calm weather on the West Coast.

"If I had come from Ireland, I probably would be thinking it was a nice day," Harrington said. "But having played the last four weeks over here, even I was struggling and questioning and doubting myself out there. I found it very difficult."

McIlroy found that out immediately. Even starting on the easier first hole, the wind fooled him and took his 2-iron far

Associated Press

to the right and toward the driving range. Just like that, he was 2 over.

He found the water left of the green on the par-3 fifth hole for another double bogey, and came a foot within big trouble on the 14th. His tee shot sent left toward the houses and stopped about 18 inches from the out-of-bounds stakes. He made bogey to fall to 5 over with four holes remaining.

Walking to the 15th tee, the power group of the day had put up some shocking numbers.

Johnson, who contended at Riviera and Pebble Beach, was 9 over for his round. Koepka was 5 over. Collectively, that made the group 19 over.

"Walking from 14 green to 15 tee, I said to Brooks, 'Let's just make a couple birdies on the way in, try and get something out of it,'" McIlroy said. "Luckily, I was

sort of able to do that. But it was tough. When nothing is going your way and you don't really have anything to feed off, you don't see many good shots and guys ... we're all struggling. It was a grind out there. We'll all go home and put our feet up and get ready for tomorrow."

No one could remember the last time they faced such wind, which wasn't that strong for south Florida. There was virtually no wind in Hawaii this year, or even at Pebble Beach. It was a stiff start to the Florida Swing.

Reed had the best score of the afternoon wave, when the wind was at its strongest.

"When I hit 6-iron normally 200 yards and I'm pulling 6-iron from 170, it's tough," Reed said. "The main thing was just to stay in my golf swing and just be comfortable and try to be confident that's the club to hit from those distances. I feel like I did a good job."

Phil Mickelson opened with a 71 and was relatively pleased, though that was hard work. He hit into water hazards three times on the front nine.

"I really enjoyed the challenge of the day," Mickelson said. "It's fun to be back out competing, and I had a good day with the putter." □



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Ortiz on pace-of-play fines: 'I might run out of money'

DAVE CAMPBELL

AP Sports Writer

FORT MYERS, Florida (AP) — David Ortiz has a deliberate routine at the plate.

He sounded prepared to pay for it. "I might run out of money," Ortiz said during a colorful rant Wednesday about the new pace-of-play rule requiring hitters to keep at least one foot in the batter's box in some instances.

Ortiz said he felt this provision, announced last week, unfairly targeted hitters. One of the more radical alterations discussed, a limit on the number of seconds between pitches, was not implemented.

"I'm not going to change my game," the Boston designated hitter said. "I don't care what they say."

Major League Baseball can dock him, starting May 1, up to \$500 per offense. Penalties were limited to warnings and fines, rather than allowing umpires to call strikes.

Another part of the initiative agreed to by MLB and the players' association will be the installation of clocks in stadiums to limit the length of pitching changes and between-innings breaks. Managers, too, are no longer required to leave the dugout to request video reviews. In his first remarks to reporters since arriving at spring training, Ortiz said he wasn't aware of the batter's box rule.

"So after the pitch, you've got to stay in the box, basically?" he said, incredulously.

Yes, with one foot, unless there has just been a foul ball, wild pitch or other specified reason.

"One foot?" Ortiz said.

Yes, to speed up the game.

Ortiz then used a profanity to describe his reaction to the rule.

"When you come out of the box, you're thinking about what a guy's trying to do," he continued. "This is not like we go to the plate with an empty mind. No, no, no. When



Boston Red Sox's David Ortiz sits with his bat by his feet as he takes questions during a news conference after a morning workout at baseball spring training in Fort Myers Fla., Wednesday Feb. 25, 2015.

Associated Press

you see guys pitch coming out of the box, we're not doing it just for doing it. Our mind is speeding up. I saw one pitch, when I come out, I'm thinking, 'What is this guy going to try to do to me next?' I'm not walking around just because there's cameras all over the place and I want my buddies back home to see me and this and that."

Ortiz blamed pitchers for wasting more time than hitters.

"How about the guy on the mound who goes like this for three hours?" he said, shaking his head back and forth to mimic the act of shaking off a sign.

Toronto's R.A. Dickey, one of the faster-working pitchers in the major leagues, said he loved the new

rules.

"Bring on the pitch clock. Bring on whatever. I like it, because it makes the hitter feel uncomfortable," the 2012 NL Cy Young Award winner said. "I'm already fast, so it's only going to put more pressure on the hitter that has to get in the box and get ready before his routine. If you've got some guys who have a very deliberate routine — (Robinson) Cano and Ortiz and others that have a very deliberate routine ... they're going to have to speed up a little bit and that may take just this much out of their game. You know, that could be enough to get a pop out instead of a home run sometimes. I'm great with it."

Manager John Farrell stressed the importance of letting the new rules play out for a season.

"Anytime a game is played a certain way for as many years as it has, an adjustment is going to have some growing pains associated to it," Farrell said. "But I think as long as everyone is aware of what the attention is and what we're trying to get to, maybe those growing pains become less frustrating."

The 39-year-old Ortiz had an .873 on-base-plus-slugging percentage last season, still a robust number for almost any player in the majors but his second-lowest since joining the Red Sox in 2003. He hit 35 home runs with 104 RBIs in 142 games, which is exactly what they've paid him to do.

As for how much longer he's planning on playing?

"You guys asked the same question to Tom Brady last year," Ortiz said, adding with a smile. "We are like the wine. Remember that."

Quarterback Brady recently helped the New England Patriots to a fourth Super Bowl title. That's one more championship ring than Ortiz has received with the Red Sox. "That's my motivation now," he said. □

NBA Capsules

Kevin Garnett a winner in emotional return to Wolves

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Kevin Garnett made an emotional return to Minnesota with an ear-splitting reception and his Timberwolves overcame a jittery start to beat the Washington Wizards 97-77 on Wednesday night.

Garnett, the face of the franchise who was reacquired in a trade from Brooklyn last week, had five points on 2-for-7 shooting with eight rebounds and two blocks in 19 minutes in his first game for the Timberwolves since 2007. Kevin Martin scored 28 points and Andrew Wiggins had 19 for the Wolves, who trailed by 15 early after Garnett's stirring reintroduction.

Marcin Gortat had nine points and 15 rebounds for the Wizards, who have lost five in a row and 10 of their last 12. John Wall had five points on 2-for-10 shooting and 10 assists, and Paul Pierce missed the game with a bruised knee.

Nikola Pekovic had 15 points and 13 rebounds for Minnesota, but the night belonged to KG, the charismatic superstar who put this woebegone franchise on the map during 12 brilliant seasons before getting traded to Boston in

2007.

HEAT 93, MAGIC 90, OT

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Luol Deng had 21 points, Dwyane Wade added 18 and Miami rallied to beat Orlando.

Hassan Whiteside added 15 points and 13 rebounds. The Heat have won three

Nik Vucevic had all five of the Magic's points in overtime, and finished with 26 points and eight rebounds. Victor Oladipo had 13 points and a career-high 13 rebounds.

ROCKETS 110, CLIPPERS 105

HOUSTON (AP) — James Harden had 21 points, Co-

13 meetings with the Clippers.

The Rockets opened the fourth quarter with a 15-1 run to take a 99-86 lead. With the second unit in, Brewer starred in that stretch, scoring 10 points, with two 3-pointers.

Jamal Crawford led Los Angeles with 24 points. Chris Paul has 22 points and 14 assists, and DeAndre Jordan has 22 points and 19 rebounds.

HAWKS 104, MAVERICKS 87

ATLANTA (AP) — Dennis Schroder had 17 points, Atlanta took the lead with a 13-0 run in the third quarter and went on beat Dallas, with the Mavericks playing without suspended guard Rajon Rondo.

The Mavericks suspended Rondo before the game for conduct detrimental to the team. Rondo had a heated exchange on the court with coach Rick Carlisle in the third quarter Tuesday night against Toronto.

Carlisle said the one-game suspension was an "organizational decision" and said Rondo will start in the Mavericks' next game against Brooklyn on Saturday. Monta Ellis led Dallas with 19 points.

HORNETS 98, BULLS 86

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael

Kidd-Gilchrist had 18 points and 12 rebounds, Mo Williams scored 17 points and Charlotte beat Chicago after the Bulls learned Derrick Rose will have yet another knee surgery.

Al Jefferson added 16 points to help the Hornets snap a five-game losing streak.

The Bulls revealed Tuesday night that Rose has a torn meniscus in his right knee, a big blow to the franchise. That fueled more doubts about whether the 2011 NBA MVP will ever be the same, let alone lead Chicago to its first championship since the Michael Jordan-Scottie Pippen era.

KINGS 102, GRIZZLIES 90

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— Rudy Gay scored 28 points, DeMarcus Cousins added 16 points and nine rebounds and Sacramento beat Memphis.

Cousins overcame foul trouble — and a confrontation with Grizzlies big man Zach Randolph — to lead Sacramento's 10-0 spurt to start the fourth quarter. He added six assists in just 24 minutes before fouling out. The Kings improved to 2-1 since George Karl took over as coach. Randolph had 20 points and five rebounds. The Grizzlies had won 16 of 19. □



Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) grabs a rebound during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Orlando Magic, Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

of four since losing Chris Bosh for the season with a blood clot in his lung. The Magic squandered an eight-point lead with less than a minute play in the fourth quarter, allowing the Heat to send the game to extra time.

rey Brewer scored 13 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter and the Houston Rockets snapped a six-game skid to Los Angeles. It's Houston's first victory over Los Angeles since March 30, 2013, and just the second win in the past



In this Dec. 1, 2013, file photo, Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson, left, tries to break a tackle from Chicago Bears free safety Chris Conte during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game in Minneapolis.

DAVE CAMPBELL

JON KRAWCZYNSKI

AP Sports Writers

A federal judge has cleared the way for Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson to be reinstated, ruling that an NFL arbitrator "failed to meet his duty"

in a child abuse case that shook the league.

U.S. District Judge David Doty issued his order on Thursday, less than three weeks after hearing oral arguments. Doty overruled NFL arbitrator Harold Henderson's denial of Peter-

Judge rules for Peterson, paving way for NFL reinstatement

son's appeal.

The league suspended Peterson through at least April 15 under its personal conduct policy. But Doty said in his 16-page ruling that Henderson "simply disregarded the law of the shop, and in doing so failed to meet his duty" under the collective bargaining agreement.

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said the league will "review the decision."

NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith said in a statement the decision was a "victory for the rule of law, due process, and fairness."

The crux of the issue was the application of the en-

hanced personal conduct policy, increasing a suspension for players involved with domestic violence from two games to six games. Because that was implemented after the injuries occurred to Peterson's son, delivered by a branch that Peterson was using for discipline, the union contended that the prior standard of punishment should apply.

"This is yet another example why neutral arbitration is good for our players, good for the owners, and good for our game," Smith said. Now there's the matter of Peterson's future with the Vikings.

He's under contract through 2017, carrying a \$15 million salary cap hit for 2015, and several high-ranking Vikings officials have said definitively they want him to return. General manager Rick Spielman said last week he expects Peterson to be back. But Peterson has expressed some uneasiness, telling ESPN in a recent interview he felt betrayed by the organization while on paid leave.

The market opens on March 10, at which time the Vikings could trade Peterson. If they cut him, they'd owe him no more money and take only a \$2.4 million hit to their salary cap. □

Penguins win 4-3 at Capitals to open mini-break

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sidney Crosby scored his 20th goal of the season, Evgeni Malkin added three assists, and the Pittsburgh Penguins held on to beat the Washington Capitals 4-3 on Wednesday night, averting a sweep of the season series.

Patric Hornqvist, Brandon Sutter and Chris Kunitz also had goals for Pittsburgh, which has won three straight and leads Washington by three points for third place in the Metropolitan Division.

Crosby and Malkin both earned their first points of the season against Washington, which won the first three meetings by a combined score of 10-1.

Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 21 shots, including Joel Ward's breakaway attempt in the second period. Alex Ovechkin's power play tally, his NHL-leading 39th goal of the season, made it 4-3 with 3:34 left.

John Carlson and Troy Brouwer both had a goal and an assist for the Capitals. Jason Chimera had two assists, and Braden Holtby made 22 saves.



Pittsburgh Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury, center, hits Washington Capitals right wing Joel Ward (42) with his glove during the third period of an NHL hockey game, Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015, in Washington. At

Associated Press

Holtby made 22 saves.

FLAMES 3, DEVILS 1

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Sean Monahan scored a power-play goal 35 seconds into the third period and Calgary beat New Jersey to move into a Western Con-

ference wild-card spot.

Curtis Glencross scored late in the second period to tie it, T.J. Brodie added a short-handed, empty-net goal in the final minute, and Karri Ramo made 26 saves as the Flames snapped a

three-game losing streak.

Calgary moved one point ahead of idle Minnesota in the playoff race.

Mike Cammalleri scored his fifth goal in four games for the Devils, who had a season-high, four-game

winning streak snapped. Cory Schneider made 23 saves, giving up two goals in a 49-second span bridging the second and third periods.

SENATORS 3, DUCKS 0

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Andrew Hammond made 25 saves to earn his first NHL shutout in his third career start, and Erik Condra, Mika Zibanejad and Kyle Turris scored to lift Ottawa over Anaheim.

Hammond, who got the chance to play because of injuries to Craig Anderson and Robin Lehner, has backstopped the Senators to three straight victories. He has stopped 88 of 91 shots.

It is Ottawa's first three-game winning streak since a four-game run following a season-opening loss at Nashville. The Senators are 14-12-5 since Dave Cameron took over as coach for Paul MacLean, following the team's 11-11-5 start.

John Gibson made 31 saves for the Pacific Division-leading Ducks, who were blanked for the third time this season after winning three straight. □

Florida Panthers add Jaromir Jagr for playoff run

TIM REYNOLDS

AP Sports Writer

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — The Florida Panthers acquired Jaromir Jagr from the New Jersey Devils on Thursday for a second-round pick in June and either Florida or Minnesota's third-round pick in 2016.

Jagr had 11 goals and 18 assists in 57 games this season for New Jersey. His playing time has been cut recently and he has gone eight games without a point.

Jagr is sixth in NHL history with 716 goals, seventh with 1,068 assists and fifth with 1,784 points in 1,530 career regular-season games in 22 years with Pittsburgh, Washington, the New York Rangers, Philadelphia, Dallas, Boston and New Jersey.

The Czech star also has 78 goals and 121 assists in 202 playoff games. He helped



New Jersey Devils right wing Jaromir Jagr, of the Czech Republic, skates against the Calgary Flames during the second period of an NHL hockey game, Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015, in Newark, N.J.

Associated Press

Pittsburgh win Stanley Cup titles in his first two seasons in the NHL in 1990-91 and 1991-92.

Florida was still working out the details Thursday as to when Jagr would make his debut for the team. The Panthers are home against Chicago on Thursday night. Florida entered Thursday two points out of the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Jagr, who turned 43 earlier this month, has been in the league longer than the Panthers have. His NHL debut was Oct. 5, 1990; the Panthers played their first game Oct. 6, 1993.

He was part of his native Czech Republic winning gold medals at the 1998 Olympics and the world championships in 2005 and 2010. Jagr owns or shares no fewer than 18 NHL records, including his 127 game-winning goals. □

Nickelodeon debuts mobile service Noggin for the pre-K set



This undated file image released by Nickelodeon shows a scene from the animated show "SpongeBob SquarePants."

Associated Press

ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Nickelodeon is creating brand-new content and resurrecting old shows for a mobile subscription service aimed at preschoolers.

The \$6-a-month service called Noggin will have new games and activities alongside archives of shows no longer on any of Nickelodeon's TV channels. That includes videos of characters Moose and Zee teaching letters, shapes and other pre-kindergarten skills. And on the heels of a successful "SpongeBob" movie, Nickelodeon is also developing a musical based on the cartoon character for a potential run on Broadway. Aerosmith has written a song for it, while David Bowie will contribute an old song. But there's no word yet on when it might premiere, if ever.

"It's not definite. We're still workshopping the show.

We do think it has great potential," Sarah Kirshbaum Levy, Nickelodeon's chief operating officer, told The Associated Press.

As for Noggin, the ad-free service will debut next Thursday on Apple mobile devices. An Android version will follow.

Although the videos will initially come from Nickelodeon's archives, Levy said new episodes may follow.

She said the impetus came from Nickelodeon seeing rivals thrive with archives of content, while its own "deep, rich library" went untapped. "Sesame Street," for instance, offers its archives online for \$4 a month. Levy said Nickelodeon didn't see enough broad-reach, television demand for the older content, but thought there would be enough interest on demand. The company is calling Noggin "separate and distinct" from the Nick Jr. preschool channel be-

cause the Noggin shows are no longer shown on TV. Although a few cable channels such as HBO are planning stand-alone streaming subscriptions as alternatives to a cable package, most channels are sticking with existing distributors. In this case, Nickelodeon said it's in talks with pay-TV providers to bundle Noggin with cable and satellite packages. The regular Nick Jr. channel is available through a separate Nick Jr. app, but it requires a pay-TV subscription and isn't sold as a stand-alone subscription.

Levy said Nickelodeon's four traditional channels will remain its core business, and there aren't any current plans to offer similar services for older children.

New York-based Viacom Inc., which owns Nickelodeon, did announce stand-alone subscriptions around its MTV brand this week. The MTV Play video service, launching next Thursday, will offer archives of past content and previews of new shows. It will be initially available only in Germany, Switzerland and Romania, however. The MTV Trax music service will

launch Tuesday in the U.K. and expand later to New Zealand. Both services will be aimed at mobile users.

Viacom hinted at the Noggin service last month, but details weren't unveiled until Wednesday at Nickelodeon's annual presentation to ad buyers and other marketers on upcoming shows. Noggin is the original name of the Nick Jr. channel and was chosen partly because moms are already familiar with the brand, said Cyma Zarghami, president of the kids and family group at Viacom. □

Vandalism in Arizona shows the Internet's vulnerability



A sign posted outside a Baskin-Robbins ice cream store in Flagstaff, Ariz., Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015, advises customers that only cash or checks will be accepted due to an Internet and phone outage.

Associated Press

FELICIA FONSECA

Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Arizona (AP)

Computers, cellphones and landlines in Arizona were knocked out of service for hours, automatic teller machines stopped working, emergency call systems were disrupted and businesses were unable to process credit card

transactions — all because a vandal apparently sliced through a fiber-optic Internet cable buried under the desert.

The Internet outage did more than underscore just how dependent modern society has become on high technology. It raised questions about the vulnerability of the nation's Inter-

net infrastructure.

Alex Juarez, a spokesman for Internet service provider CenturyLink, said the problem was first reported around noon Wednesday, and complaints immediately began to pour in from customers across northern Arizona.

Internet and phone service started to come back to some residents and businesses in Flagstaff by 6:30 p.m. and was fully restored by about 3 a.m.

CenturyLink blamed vandalism, and police are investigating.

The severed CenturyLink-owned cable is near a riverbed in a rocky stretch of desert that isn't easily accessible to vehicles. It carries signals for various cellphone, TV and Internet providers that serve northern Arizona.

CenturyLink gave no estimate on how many people were affected.

Zak Holland, who works at a computer store at Northern Arizona University, said distraught students were nearly in tears when he said nothing could be done to restore their Internet connection.

"It just goes to show how dependent we are on the Internet when it disappears," he said.

maps where local temperatures would normally appear. □

Mitsubishi's iMiev remains cheapest electric

DETROIT (AP) — Mitsubishi's 2016 iMiev will remain the cheapest electric car on the market when it goes on sale in the U.S. next month. The tiny four-seater starts at \$22,995, the same as the previous model year. With a \$7,500 federal tax credit, the price drops to \$15,495. Standard features include heated front seats, remote keyless entry and an eight-year, 100,000-mile warranty on the battery pack.

The iMiev was introduced in 2011. Two years later, Mitsubishi dropped its price by \$5,000 to ensure it would be cheaper than newer entries like the electric Chevrolet Spark.

But the car hasn't been a big seller. Mitsubishi sold 196 iMievs in the U.S. last year, down 81 percent from the previous year. By comparison, Nissan sold more than 30,000 electric Leaf sedans. □

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Sears 4Q loss narrows, sales slide as business shifts

M. CHAPMAN
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sears recorded its fourth straight year of falling profit and revenue, even as cost cutting and store closures helped narrow its loss for the fourth quarter. The Hoffman Estates, Illinois-based company, which runs Kmart and its name-

sake stores, has been closing stores, selling assets and slashing inventory as it continues with efforts to turn around its business. But the retailer and its CEO and chairman, Edward Lampert, still face challenges. Lampert, a billionaire hedge fund manager, combined Sears and Kmart in 2005, about two years af-

ter he helped bring Kmart out of bankruptcy. But the retail landscape has undergone seismic shifts in recent years and the tie-up hasn't gelled. To try to get back on track, Sears has shifted its focus from running a store network to operating an online and offline business tied together by its Shop Your

Way loyalty program. Sales to Shop Your Way members accounted for 72 percent of eligible sales for the fourth quarter — the same as in the third quarter. Lampert said in a letter to shareholders, employees and members that without the aggressive steps the company has taken, "we would be stuck on

the same path that has claimed retailers like Circuit City, Borders, Radio Shack and others." "Our only option is to become better equipped to support, anticipate and exceed our members' needs," he said. Sears lost \$159 million, or \$1.50 per share, for the period ended Jan. 31. □

US stock indexes drift mostly lower as oil prices sink



Trader Christopher Lotito works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015. U.S. financial markets drifted mostly lower in trading Thursday, with energy stocks among the biggest decliners as crude oil prices fell. Investors were weighing new economic data on unemployment benefit claims, consumer prices and orders for long-lasting manufactured goods. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

U.S. stocks drifted to a slightly lower finish on Thursday, weighed down by falling energy stocks as the slump in oil prices deepened. Chevron and Exxon Mobil were among the biggest decliners in the Dow Jones industrial average, which eased back from its latest all-time high. The Standard & Poor's 500 index also slipped below its record high set earlier this week. The Nasdaq composite bucked the trend, creeping within 61 points of its dot-com era record close. Expectations of rising oil supplies sent the price of crude to its lowest level in nearly a month. Benchmark U.S. crude oil fell \$2.82 to close

at \$48.17 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Investors also had to sort through a mix of corporate earnings and U.S. economic reports. "When you have a big move in the market you expect to see it pull back a little bit, catch its breath and wait for that next catalyst to move higher," said Quincy Krosby, market strategist for Prudential Financial. The Dow ended down 10.15 points, or 0.1 percent, to 18,214.42. Among individual Dow members, Chevron lost \$1.52, or 1.4 percent, to \$107.06 while Exxon Mobil slid 95 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$88.65. The S&P 500 index slipped 3.12 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,110.74. □

IBM outlines plan to revamp business for investors

NEW YORK (AP) — IBM's CEO says the company's plan to revamp its business to shift away from hardware and focus on business analytics, cloud computing, mobile services and security is on track. In a media briefing ahead of an investor conference in New York on Thursday, Virginia Rometty said the company plans that the new tech markets should

make up 40 percent of IBM's business, or \$40 billion, in the next 4 years. That's up from 13 percent five years ago and 27 percent by the end of this year. Once the dominant PC-maker known as "Big Blue," IBM is confronting a sales slump as it struggles to adapt to big changes in the way businesses buy software and other commercial technology. It is-

sued another disappointing earnings report in January, as both revenue and profit fell in the December quarter. But Rometty said the sales decline has been largely engineered by the company as it restructures its hardware business and sells off less profitable units. Hardware now makes up less than 10 percent of the company, she said. Looking forward, IBM plans

to spend \$4 billion to invest in the new areas of focus like data analytics and cloud computing, excluding acquisitions. It also plans to focus on partnering with other businesses. It pointed to its recent partnership with Apple, once its staunch rival, to develop new mobile software. And last week IBM said it would partner with Japan's SoftBank Telecom

Corp. to develop apps and services with its Watson artificial intelligence unit. But so far, analysts remain skeptical of the turnaround plan. "The fall-off in the traditional businesses is dwarfing IBM's ability to capture new revenue opportunities as the market shifts," Bernstein analyst Toni Sacconaghi Jr. wrote after the company's earnings report in January. □

ISIS Heads to Rome



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
© 2015 New York Times

The Italians got this one right. Last week, The Washington Post's Adam Taylor helpfully collected tweets that Italians put out after a murderous video issued by the Islamic State, or ISIS, warned: "Today we are south of Rome," one militant said. "We will conquer Rome with Allah's permission." As the hashtag #We_Are_Coming_O_Rome made the rounds in Italy, Rome residents rose to the challenge. Their tweets, Taylor noted, included:

"#We_Are_Coming_O_Rome ahahah Be careful on the highway-Ring Road: there's too much traffic, you would remain trapped!"

"#We_Are_Coming_O_Rome hey just a tip: don't come in train, it's every time late!"

"#We_Are_Coming_O_Rome You're too late. Italy is already been destroyed by their governments."

And "#We_Are_Coming_O_Rome We are ready to meet you! We have nice Colosseum plot for sale. Accept Credit Cards Securely, bargain price." ISIS' murderous ways aren't a joke, but the Italians' mocking of ISIS is rather appropriate. While we agonizingly debate ISIS' relationship to Islam, we've forgotten a simple truth about many of the people attracted to such groups. It is the truth uttered by Ruslan Tsarni on CNN after his two nephews, Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev, were accused of the Boston Marathon bombing. They were just two "losers," he said, who resented those who did better than them and dressed it up in ideology. "Anything else, anything else to do with religion, with Islam, is a fraud, is a fake."

There's a lot of truth in that. ISIS is made up of three loose factions, and we need to understand all three before we get deeper into another war in Iraq and Syria. One faction comprises the foreign volunteers. Some are hardened jihadists, but many are just losers, misfits, adventure seekers and young men who've never held power, a job or a girl's hand and joined ISIS to get all three. I doubt many are serious students of Islam or that offering them a more moderate version would keep them home. If ISIS starts losing, this can't offer jobs, power or sex, this group will shrink.

ISIS' second faction, its backbone, is made up of former Sunni Baathist army officers and local Iraqi Sunnis and tribes, who give ISIS passive support. Although Iraqi Sunnis constitute a third of Iraq's population, they've ruled Iraq for generations and simply can't accept the fact that the Shiite majority is now in charge. Also, for many Sunni villagers

under ISIS' control, ISIS is just less bad than the brutalization and discrimination they received from Iraq's previous Shiite-led government. Google "Iraq Shiite militias and power drills" and you'll see that ISIS didn't invent torture in Iraq.

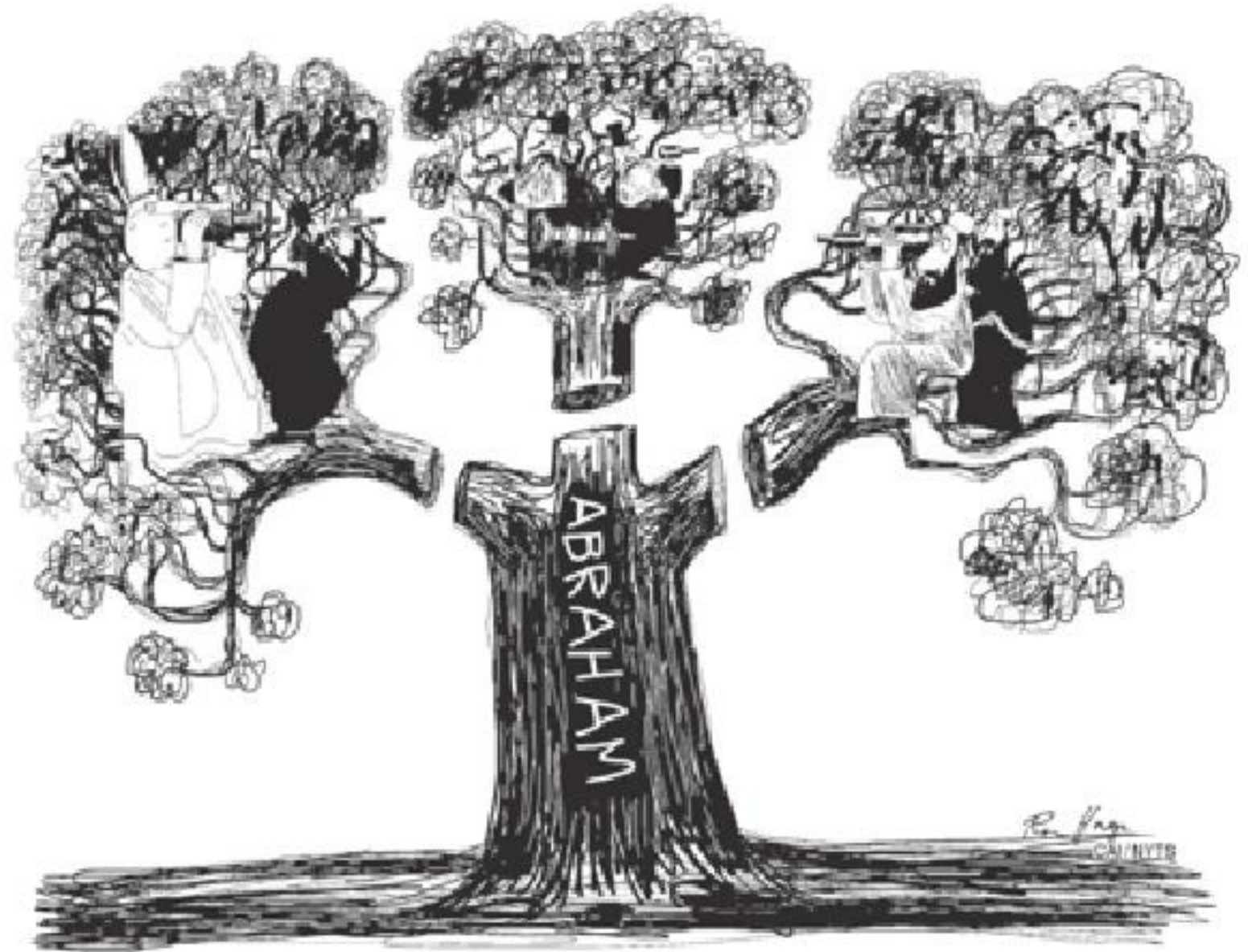
The U.S. keeps repeating the same mistake in the Middle East: overestimating the power of religious ideology and underappreciating the impact of misgovernance. Sarah Chayes, who long worked in Afghanistan and has written an important book - "Thieves of State: Why Corruption Threatens Global Security" - about how government corruption helped turn Afghans away from us and from the pro-U.S. Afghan regime, argues that "nothing feeds extremism more than the in-your-face corruption and injustice" that some of America's closest Middle East allies administer daily to their people.

The third ISIS faction is composed of the true ideologues, led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. They have their own apocalyptic version of Islam. But it would not be resonating were it not for the fact that "both religion and politics have been hijacked" in the Arab world and Pakistan, creating a "toxic mix," says Nader Mousavizadeh, who co-leads the global consulting firm Macro Advisory Partners. The Arab peoples have been mostly ruled by radicals or reactionaries. And without the prospect of a legitimate politics "that genuinely responds to popular grievances," no amount of top-down attempts to engender moderate Islam will succeed, he added.

Islam has no Vatican to decree whose Islam is authentic, so it emerges differently in different contexts. There is a moderate Islam that emerged in decent political, social and economic contexts - see Indian Islam, Indonesian Islam and Malaysian Islam - and never stood in the way of their progress. And there are puritanical, anti-pluralistic, anti-modern education, anti-women Islam that emerged from the more tribalized corners of the Arab world, Nigeria and Pakistan, helping hold these places back.

That's why ISIS is not just an Islam problem and not just a "root causes" problem. ISIS is a product of decades of failed governance in the Arab world and Pakistan and centuries of a calcification of Arab Islam. They feed off each other. Those who claim it's just one or the other are dead wrong.

So, to defeat ISIS and not see another emerge, you need to: wipe out its leadership; enlist Muslims to discredit the very real, popular, extremist versions of Islam coming out of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan; stem the injustice, corruption, sectarianism and state failure now rampant in the Arab world and Pakistan; and carve out for Iraqi Sunnis their own autonomous region of Iraq and a share of its oil wealth, just like the Kurds have. I know: sounds impossible. But this problem is very deep. This is the only route to a more moderate Arab Islam - as well as to fewer young men and women looking for dignity in all the wrong places. □



The Republican Policy Test



ROSS DOUTHAT
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The economy is sluggish but improving. President Barack Obama's approval rating is mediocre but not disastrous. Memories of Mitt Romney's unsuccessful presidential campaign are relatively fresh - not least because Romney popped up briefly to remind everyone of them. And the Republicans pondering a run for president in 2016 all seem to sense that they need to do to things a little, well, differently if they expect to ultimately win. Maybe that means talking more about inequality - even putting it right in the heart of your economic pitch, as Jeb Bush seems intent on doing. Maybe it means trying to reach constituencies (young, black, Hispanic) that the Romney campaign mostly wrote off, which is what Rand Paul thinks his libertarian message can accomplish. Maybe it means projecting the most Middle American, Kohl's-shopping, non-Bain Capital image possible - which is why the recent media fascination with Scott Walker's lack of a college diploma was probably a boon to the Wisconsin governor.

When it comes to the Republican Party's basic presidential-level problem, though - the fact that many persuadable voters don't trust a Republican president to look out for their economic interests - it should be easy to tell whether the way a candidate differentiates himself will actually make a difference. Just look at what he proposes on two issues: taxes and health care.

These are obviously not the only domestic policies worthy of de-

bate. But they're two places where the immediate link between policy and take-home pay is very clear and two places where abstract promises about "opportunity," "mobility" and "the American dream" either cash out or don't.

Precisely because there's real money on the table, they are places where being a reformer requires more than lip service. One reason issues like immigration and education are appealing to Republican politicians looking to change their party's image is that policy change in these areas seems relatively cheap - more green cards here, new curricular standards there, and nothing that requires donors and interest groups to part with their favorite subsidies and tax breaks.

But you can't reform the tax code or health care that easily, which is why those issues offer better, tougher tests of whether a would-be conservative reformer should be taken seriously. Not coincidentally, they're policy tests that Obama-era Republicans have often conspicuously failed. On taxes, the party has been enamored of reforms - some plausible, some fanciful - that would cut taxes at the top while delivering little, or even higher taxes, to most taxpayers. (It's an odd position for a party that is officially anti-tax to take in an age of wage stagnation, but at least the donors have been happy.) On health care, the GOP has profited from the unpopularity of Obamacare, but we are now at Year 6 and counting without anything more than the pretense of a conservative alternative.

These failures have not been for want of policy options; they've been for want of ingenuity and will. The list of plausible conservative health care alternatives now literally fills a book - "Overcoming Obamacare," from The Washington Examiner's Philip Klein, which any Republican presidential contender would do well to at least pretend to have

read. The best of these alternatives would allow a Republican candidate to promise, as Romney did not, to mostly maintain Obama's coverage expansion (albeit with less comprehensive coverage) while lowering health insurance premiums for most Americans.

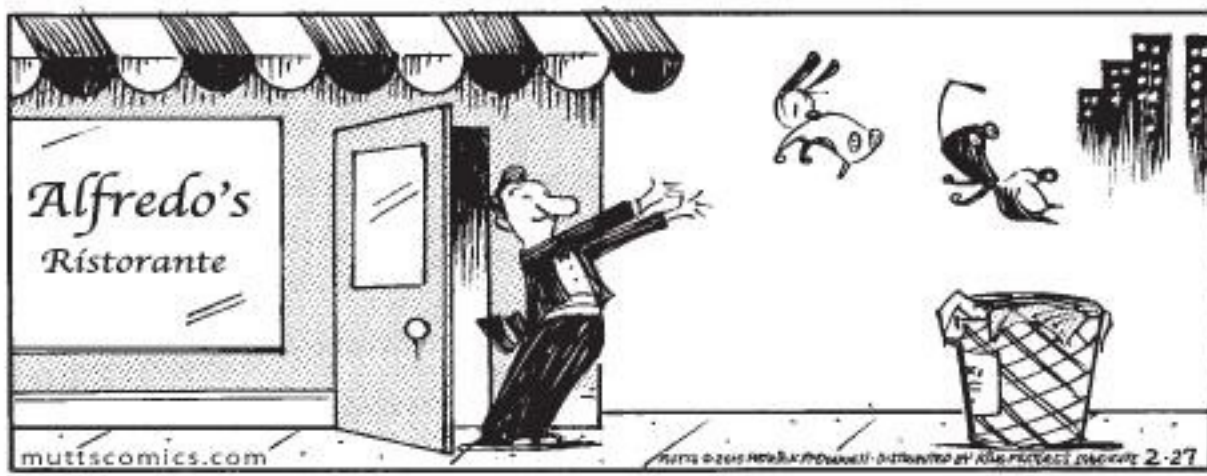
On tax policy, similarly, several obvious avenues are open to a would-be reformer. One possibility is the family-friendly tax reform championed by Sens. Marco Rubio (the presidential contender with the strongest policy agenda to date) and Mike Lee, which would deliver substantial tax relief to families with children. Another is a straightforward payroll tax cut, which would raise take-home pay for existing workers and reduce the cost of hiring new ones.

But again, these kinds of policies cost money. A plausible Obamacare alternative requires a tax credit for purchasing insurance; a middle-class tax cut requires, well, a middle-class tax cut. If you want these things, you probably can't have certain other priorities beloved by the party's donor base - like, say, the lowest possible top marginal tax rate. So embracing reforms that deliver something tangible to middle-class voters means embracing a policy fight.

But Republicans who decide to duck that fight won't really be tackling Middle America's biggest challenges - or their party's biggest political problem.

If Jeb Bush decides that his big reform ideas will be immigration and the Common Core, his "right to rise" rhetoric will be mostly empty. If Scott Walker campaigns on, say, a flat tax and restoring the pre-2009 health insurance status quo, his middle-class shtick will remain just that. But if the party nominates a candidate who offers something genuinely different on these issues than his predecessors did in 2008 and 2012, the possibility of a different general-election outcome might be there for the taking. □

Mutts



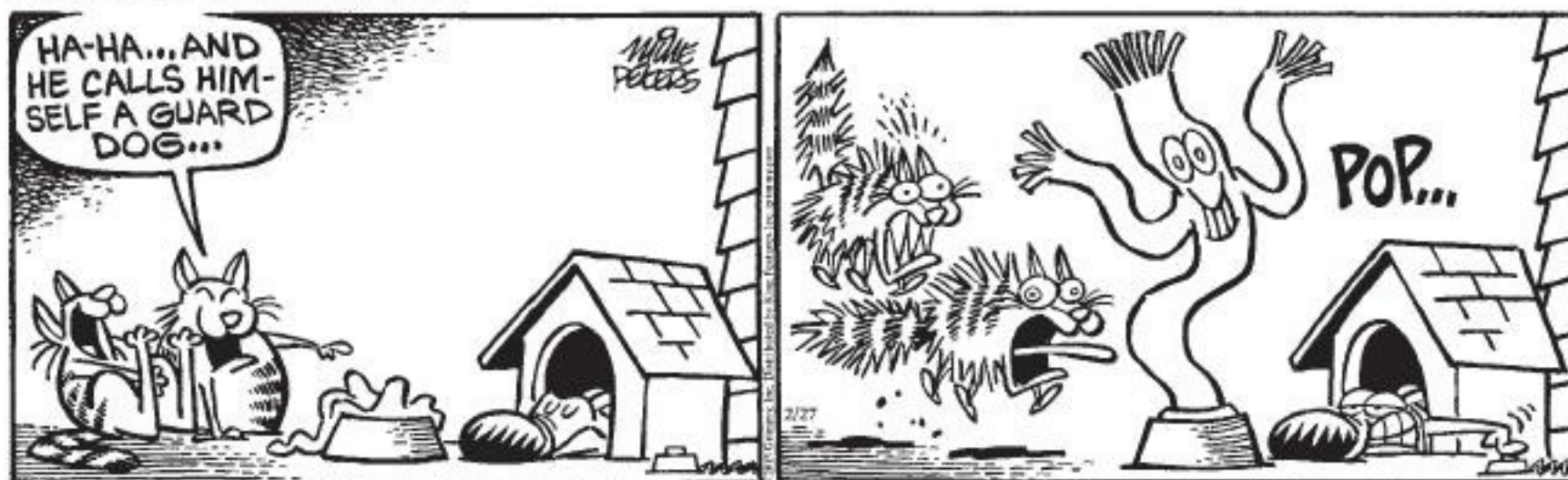
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			2				9	
		9				8	6	
	5							2
3		6			8			1
	8						2	
2			4			5		8
8							1	
	7	4				2		
	9				6			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	9	1	3	5	6	7	8	4
7	3	5	8	9	4	6	2	1
8	4	6	2	7	1	9	5	3
4	5	2	7	8	9	1	3	6
1	7	3	4	6	5	2	9	8
9	6	8	1	2	3	5	4	7
6	2	4	5	3	7	8	1	9
5	1	7	9	4	8	3	6	2
3	8	9	6	1	2	4	7	5

ACROSS

- Jacks & jokers
- Mix with a wooden spoon
- Church service
- Look for the coming of
- Speck
- and-shut case
- Indy 500 car
- Blast of wind
- "Penny"; Beatles song
- Vision
- Few and far between
- Gabor & others
- Pad under a cocktail
- Breakfast order
- on; forwards
- Anti's vote
- like; appears to be
- Chairs & stools
- Bleachers level
- Devious fellow
- Meal in the sty
- More peculiar
- Challenges
- Actress Farrow
- High-powered surgical beam
- Pulse, blood pressure, etc.
- Gathered wool
- Casino cubes
- Lent a hand to
- Provide funds for
- Misfortunes
- Slightly open
- Pyle or Kovacs
- Escape
- Small fruit pie
- Punches
- Truck scale divisions
- Diminishes
- Ashes & alders

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20					21				22	23		
24					25				26			
27					28				29			
30					31				32			
33					34				35			
36					37				38			
39					40				41			
42					43				44			
45					46				47			
48					49				50			
51					52				53			
54					55				56			
57					58				59			
60					61				62			
63					64				65			
66					67				68			
69					70				71			

Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

2/27/15

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

SLEW	DATED	SLID
TOME	AGILE	CONE
ASAN	VOCIFERATE	
BEN	OINK	MANOR
CANDY	SEP	
SKILLS	CARSON	
PEPPY	STACY	POT
EVAS	STALK	DESI
WIT	STEEL	GORED
NEPHEW	GREASE	
RAM	FRESH	
APHID	VIEW	OFA
CLYDESDALE	RUED	
HOPE	POSED	USED
EYES	ANTSY	TEDS

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2/27/15

DOWN

- Be concerned
- Take; subtract
- Running contest

- Hot tubs
- Falls back into bad habits
- Kline or James
- Seldom seen
- Least healthy
- Put to sleep with drugs
- Horrible fear
- Move slightly
- "Dolly!"
- Actress Burstyn
- Pub game
- Fishhook, e.g.
- A single time
- Take a fancy to
- Not as much
- Poke

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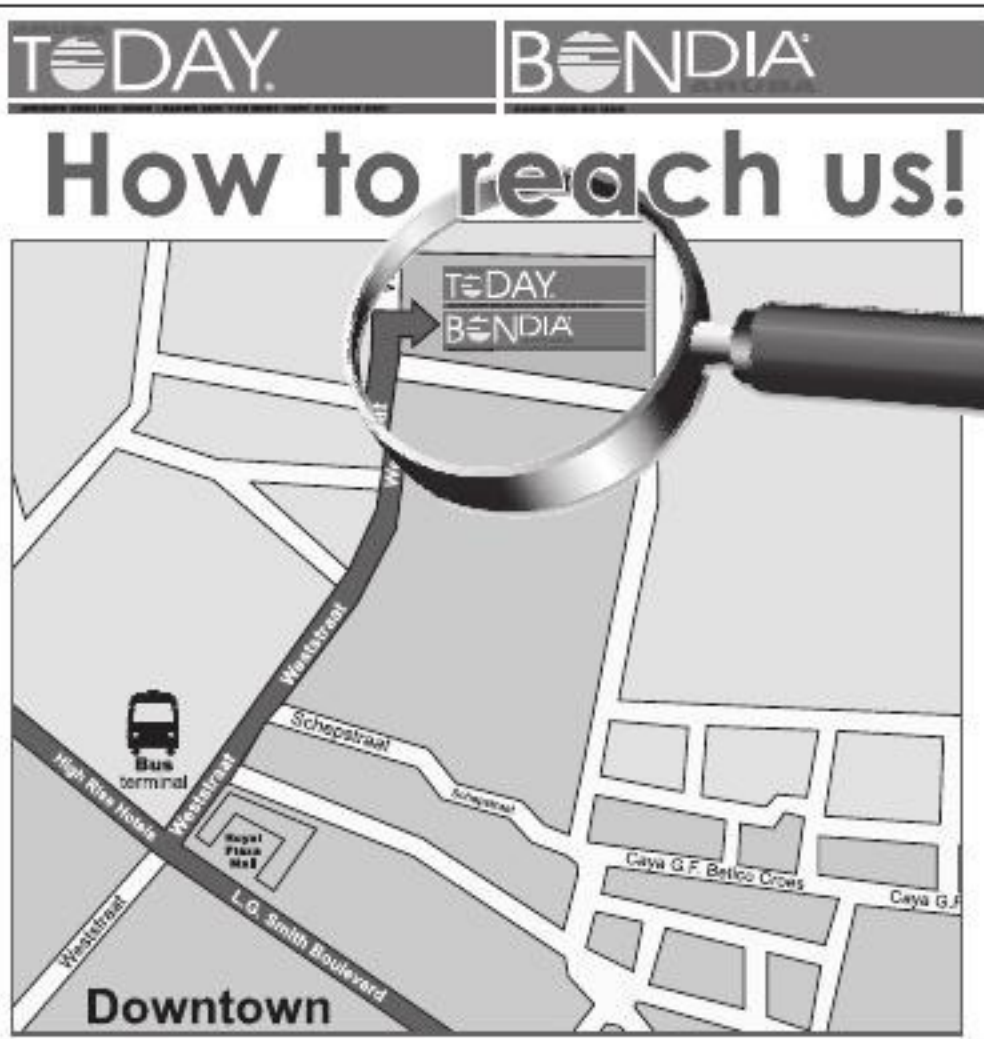
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14	540	\$5,000
14	349	\$11,000
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24/7

3 Austrians get bionic hands after amputation

MARIA CHENG

AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — Three Austrians have replaced injured hands with bionic ones that they can control using nerves and muscles transplanted into their arms from their legs.

The three men are the first to undergo what doctors refer to as "bionic reconstruction," which includes voluntary amputation, transplantation of nerves and muscles and learning to use faint signals from

them to command the hand.

Previously, people with bionic hands have primarily controlled them with manual settings.

"This is the first time we have bionically reconstructed a hand," said Dr. Oskar Aszmann of the Medical University of Vienna, who developed the approach with colleagues. "If I saw these kinds of patients five to seven years ago, I would have just shrugged my shoulders and said, 'there's

nothing I can do for you.'"

He said that while some patients might be candidates for a hand transplant, that has its own complications, including having to take anti-rejection medicines for the rest of their lives.

Aszmann and colleagues describe the cases of the three men in a report published online Wednesday in the journal *Lancet*. The men decided on amputation only after having the bionic hand strapped onto their injured hand, to



Milorad Marinkovic holds an egg with his bionic arm with his bionic arm as he poses for a photograph at his home in Vienna, Austria, Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015. Associated Press

Scientists witness carbon dioxide trapping heat in air

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists have witnessed carbon dioxide trapping heat in the atmosphere above the United States, chronicling human-made climate change in action, live in the wild.

A new study in the journal *Nature* demonstrates in real-time field measurements what scientists already knew from basic physics, lab tests, numerous simulations, temperature records and dozens of other climatic indicators. They say it confirms the science of climate

change and the amount of heat-trapping previously blamed on carbon dioxide.

Researchers saw "the fingerprint of carbon dioxide" trapping heat, said study author Daniel Feldman of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California. He said no one before had quite looked in the atmosphere for this type of specific proof of climate change. Feldman and colleagues used a decade of measurements from instruments in Alaska and Oklahoma that looked straight up into the sky and

matched what they saw with the precise chemical composition and heat fingerprints of carbon dioxide trapping heat. Scientists say carbon dioxide from the burning of coal, oil and gas is the chief cause of global warming. In doing so, the data show clouds, water vapor or changes in sun's radiation are not responsible for warming the air, as some who doubt mainstream climate science claim, Feldman said. Nor could it be temperature data being tampered with, as some contrarians insist, Feldman said.

"The data say what the data say," Feldman said. "They are very clear that the rising carbon dioxide is actually contributing to an increased greenhouse effect at those sites."

The study is good technical work, said climate scientist Andrew Dessler of Texas A&M University, but it is expected — sort of like confirming gravity with a falling rock. □

see how the robotic one might function. For Milorad Marinkovic, 30, who lost the use of his right hand in a motorbike accident more than a decade ago, the bionic hand has allowed him to hold things like a sandwich or bottle of water — and more importantly, to play with his three children. "I can throw things, but it is harder to catch a ball, because my right hand is still not quite as quick and natural (as my left)," said the Vienna based-clerk.

Dr. Simon Kay, who authored an accompanying commentary and performed Britain's first hand transplant, said there would always be major limits to bionic hands, pointing out that the brain has thousands of ways to send messages to the human hand but that a robotic prosthetic can't handle such complexity. "The question is always going to be: how do we get the message from the mind to the metal?" he said. Patients like Marinkovic, however, have few complaints about the

bionic hand, which proved especially popular with his son. When he first got the device, his son, then 4, would put on the bionic hand and proudly walk around with it, telling the other kids in his kindergarten class that "my father is a robot."

Marinkovic says using his bionic hand is nearly as natural as using his uninjured hand.

"I can do almost everything with it. I just don't have any feeling in it."

An unrelated study published last year gave patients some feeling in a prosthetic hand by relaying signals to the brain in a temporary experiment and other replacement hands can do things like grip objects but are controlled externally. Aszmann estimated the new procedure costs around 30,000 euros (\$33,960). The study was paid for by groups including the Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development and a laboratory which receives funds from Otto Bock, maker of the prosthetics used. □

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Tea Leoni in a happy state as star of 'Madam Secretary'

FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wednesday was Tea Leoni's birthday. But when referring to her age recently, she realized she wouldn't be turning 50 this time, but 49 instead. "I keep doing this!" she laughed, meaning giving her age a boost. Ever since her last birthday, she had reported her age as 49. "I lost 48 this year — totally!" It started as a playful goof on the ploy of a friend who routinely claims she's eight years older than she is. "Then people tell her, 'Oh, my God! You're GORGEOUS!'"

There is no need for Leoni to give herself any such cover. She is gorgeous, agelessly and naturally, even bundled in sweater and jeans against a raw winter day in a sandwich shop near her Manhattan apartment.

Besides, she's a woman who knows who she is. And what she wants.

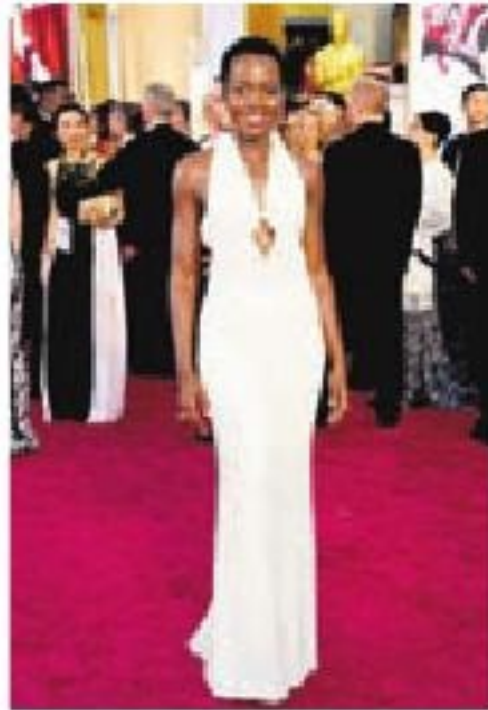
"I really do want to do something special for my 50th," she announced in her husky purr.

This was a rare day off from shooting her CBS political drama, "Madam Secretary" (airing Sunday, 8 p.m. EST), which, since premiering last fall, has spurred one question over and over for its star: Who inspired her portrayal of her character, Secretary of State Elizabeth McCord — real-life counterparts Hillary Clinton or Condoleezza Rice or Madeleine Albright?

"For a while," Leoni said, "I joked around that it was (Henry) Kissinger, because I was getting so tired of the question."

But the truth is, she's inspired by her dad.

Anthony Pantaleoni, she said, "is the most even-keeled, most diplomatic human being!" A prominent New York corporate attorney, "he has the grand empathy to see both sides of a question. I can discuss things with him, and he doesn't get adamant that there's a single right way." He even inspired Leoni into acting.



In this Jan. 14, 2014 file photo, actress Tea Leoni arrives at the 2014 UNICEF Ball in Beverly Hills, Calif. Leoni stars in the CBS political drama, "Madam Secretary" airing Sundays at 8 p.m. EST.

Associated Press

"I was going to be an anthropologist, and I was really good at it. But I wasn't passionate about it. He said, 'Don't do something because you're good at it. Do it because you're passionate about it, and you'll GET good at it.'"

The advice paid off for his daughter, whose many films include "Fun With Dick and Jane," "Flirting With Disaster," "Deep Impact," "Spanglish" and "Jurassic

Park III." Her previous series include the sitcoms "Flying Blind" and "The Naked Truth."

On "Madam Secretary," Leoni plays a woman of strength, charm and forbearance juggling obligations as a world figure, a wife and a mother of three. The show, renewed for a second season, is not so much about overcoming opposition as finding common ground — whether at work or at home.

Co-stars include Bebe Neuwirth and Zeljko Ivanek as well as Tim Daly ("Private Practice"), who plays her loving husband, Henry.

"To me, Henry was the real breakout character," said Leoni. "A theology professor, with a twist. I love that she can come home with her ethical dilemmas and he can be like my dad, the guy who can see both sides and is willing to talk about it."

Reports suggest that Daly has become Leoni's leading man off-camera as well as on, although she chooses not to discuss such matters beyond saying, "Tim Daly sure is a swell fella." □

Tea Leoni in a happy state as star of 'Madam Secretary'



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ABC's Diane Sawyer does prime-time prison special

NEW YORK (AP) — For her first big assignment after leaving as ABC "World News Tonight" anchor, Diane Sawyer went behind bars.

The veteran journalist traveled to four prisons across the country for a special, "A Nation of Women Behind Bars," that will air on ABC on Friday at 10 p.m. EST.

Sawyer examines mental health in a prison system where so many prisoners are ill, how prisoners acquire contraband and issues involving sentencing. She visited prisons in Tennessee, Maryland, Florida and Washington over eight months for the show. Prison life is a story she has returned to for ABC,



In this Feb. 15, 2015 file photo, Diane Sawyer attends the SNL 40th Anniversary Special in New York.

Associated Press

spending two nights in an Atlanta prison in 2004 for a first-person look and doing a 1996 show on life inside a maximum security

prison.

The veteran journalist gave up her nightly role in the evening news last summer to David Muir. □

Daniel Dae Kim takes control in 'Hawaii Five-0' and beyond

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Daniel Dae Kim made an impressively smooth transition from a stalwart husband on "Lost" to dashing crime fighter on "Hawaii Five-0." The actor is not done with transformations. Kim has a big-screen role in "Insurgent," the sequel to sci-fi drama "Divergent" coming in March, and took his first stab at TV directing with Friday's episode of the CBS police series (9 p.m. EST). Even more ambitious: He founded a year-old production company to put his stamp on film and TV projects, with two pilots under network consideration for the 2015-16 season.

Acting hasn't lost its allure, said the handsome Kim, who's made the cut on People magazine's "Sexiest Men" list. But expanding his role in the industry brings new opportunities that extend beyond deal-making. Directing, for instance, is "not a means to an end. ... I actually believe it informed my work as an actor a great deal. It's also



In this June 10, 2013 file photo, actor Daniel Dae Kim attends the "Man Of Steel" world premiere at Alice Tully Hall, in New York. Associated Press

being part of a creative process from every angle." He used his time on "Lost," the groundbreaking 2004-10 ABC drama, as a tutorial on the directing craft. "I shadowed directors on

"Lost," but it was not the right show for a new director to cut their teeth on, because it was so elaborate and very secretive in a lot of ways. So I just wanted to watch and learn," Kim said.

With the CBS series well on its feet in season five, he asked for and was given the chance to get behind the camera. It was a satisfying experience, he said, and one in which he enjoyed the support of his cast mates and the crew — aside from a bit of ribbing.

"I fully expected more hazing than I got. There were a couple of jabs here and there. But none of the, 'I refuse to come out of my trailer,'" he recalled.

Donning a producer's hat has the potential to be even more rewarding. As one of the rare Asian-American actors to play lead roles, Kim said, he is intent on helping other minorities get their own shot. In Los Angeles to work on postproduction for his "Hawaii Five-0" episode and tend to other projects, Kim was relaxed and thoughtful as he put his success — and his take on the industry — in perspective.

"The fact that I've been able to do two shows, back-to-back, is not something every actor gets to

say," said Kim, who has lived in Hawaii with his wife, Mia, and their two children since "Lost" filmed there. But his role in "Insurgent" is because a "young, gifted author (Veronica Roth) had the foresight to write an Asian-American male character in her book. I emphasize that because it doesn't always happen. If it's not part of (the original work), very rarely does it happen" during casting, Kim said.

"These are not complaints; they're more state-of-the-nation comments," he said. The projects being developed by his company, 3AD, all "feature minority participants at the most fundamental levels, whether as writers or lead actors or creators," Kim said. "I'm not doing this for charity: Everyone is extremely talented, and they're stories that deserve to be told by these people."

Kim, 46, was a year old when his physician-father and mother emigrated in the 1960s from South Korea and settled on the East Coast. □

APNewsBreak: Texas paid \$2.2M for Garcia Marquez archive

JIM VERTUNO

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The University of Texas' literary archive said Wednesday it paid \$2.2 million for the works of Nobel laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez, a price the school sought to keep secret until ordered to make it public by the state attorney general's office.

Officials at the university's Harry Ransom Center refused in November to reveal the price to The Associated Press, saying it would hurt negotiations for future purchases. The attorney general ruled Feb. 19 that the school failed to prove harm by disclosure and ordered the contract released.

Ransom Center spokeswoman Jen Tisdale revealed the \$2.2 million figure to the AP, but the university did not immediately release the contract.

The archive spans more than 50 years and 10 books, including Garcia Marquez's acclaimed 1967 novel, "One Hundred Years of Solitude."

The university previously had disclosed the prices of such purchases and the effort to keep the cost of the Garcia Marquez archive secret drew attention from literary and legal circles for its potential impact on future archive purchases and Texas public records law.

In 2005, the Ransom Center paid \$5 million for the Watergate coverage from reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein. It paid \$2.5 million for the archive of writer Norman Mailer in 2008 and \$1.5 million for Nobel prize-winning author J.M. Coetzee's archive in 2011.

The Ransom Center acquired those collections under former director



In this March 6, 2014 file photo, Gabriel Garcia Marquez greets fans and reporters outside his home on his birthday in Mexico City. Associated Press

Thomas Staley, who retired in 2013. The Garcia Marquez collection acquisition was negotiated by new director Stephen Ennis. He had previously worked at the privately held Folger Shakespeare Library and Emory University's Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library.

Garcia Marquez died in Mexico City in April. The

Texas purchase of the archive has drawn criticism in Colombia and his longtime home of Mexico by those who question why the material would reside in a country he often criticized. His family insisted the collection wasn't put out to the highest bidder and was offered to the Ransom Center because of its reputation as a world-class liter-

ary archive.

The Ransom Center has extensive archives on writers Jorge Luis Borges, William Faulkner and James Joyce. Other Nobel laureates included in its collection are Samuel Beckett, T. S. Eliot, Ernest Hemingway and John Steinbeck.

The school announced the purchase on Nov. 24 and the AP asked for the price the same day. Ransom Center officials refused, initially citing state law protecting details of contracts in a competitive bidding process. The AP filed a formal request for the contract under state public records law, and the University of Texas System asked the attorney general's office for permission to withhold the price.

Attorney General Ken Paxton's open records division said the school cannot keep the contract and purchase price secret. □

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